

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



edFENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk June 21, 2015

East edition No 665

TOURISM

Dreamland strikes back

After years of neglect, Margate's fun palace is back...was it worth the wait?

MUSIC

Punk duo Slaves on chart success

From the pubs of Kent to a Top 10 album

POLITICS

Who will be Labour's number one?

We ask senior party officials in the county

BUSINESS

Manston set for movie magic?

Another week, another slew of headlines for former airport

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Kent on Sunday

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Can park take town on a roller coaster recovery?

MENTION Dreamland and more often than not it elicits a response which carries the conversation off on a wave of nostalgia.

For the park is sewn deep into Kent's modern era tapestry. Whether you knew it as Dreamland or Bombom Brothers, it was a venue of fun and excitement. A place for the young to push the boundaries, and the old to remind them they once had some. Of flashing lights, laughter and yelps, loop the loops and enough candy floss to guarantee diabetes.

And so it was perhaps something of a masterstroke to take that fond reaction to package up its latest incarnation. After all, it cannot compete with the theme parks of today, but it can offer a unique experience which will lure yet more people to a town still very much in need of investment.

Margate is a town of both breathtak-



Editor **Chris Britcher**

ing beauty and architectural splendour, united with intense deprivation.

Turner has made an impact, but not transformed it. A walk through the town centre will highlight a sense of despair as much as a hint of promise.

As a result, it has the infrastructure to rebuild. Dreamland will, we should all hope, add to that. Because a strong Dreamland can mean a stronger Kent. And while it is easy to overlook the intense economic power packed into the tourism punch, it really can be the catalyst for growth.

Like Dreamland itself, what you see now is not the finished article. Dreamland still needs time before it is fully operational. Margate may need a little longer. The positive is that the park should be making it embark on that journey with a smile on its face.

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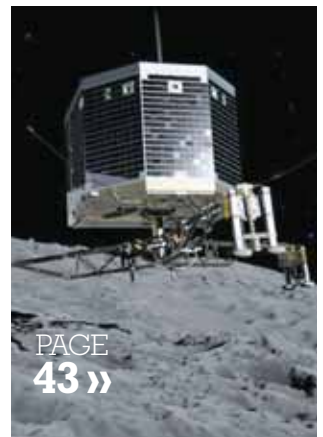
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EcoTec Plus 837 HE	£1272.00	EcoTec Plus 630 HE	£1138.00
EcoTec Plus 937 HE Storage		EcoTec Plus 637 HE	£1268.00
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850	480	3	2	£169.95
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Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
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800	£427.50	£109.00
900	£427.50	£109.00

Size mm	List Price	TKM Clearance Price
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Travel guide says we're the best spot in Europe

By Molly Kersey

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KENT has been named the best destination in the whole of Europe when it comes to a family holiday in a decision tourism chiefs will ensure the county cashes in on during the upcoming summer season.

The accolade was awarded by the prestigious travel guide Lonely Planet - with the county beating off the challenge of County Kerry in Ireland, Normandy in France and the Black Forest in Germany.

It was selected by the guide's experts who toured all destinations in order to make a recommendation for travel this summer.

They praised the county for the number of "opportunities it offers curious young minds" and said that the resurgence that coastal towns were seeing was also a factor in Kent getting to the top spot.

Reasons for families being drawn to the county include the return of Dreamland Margate, which reopened on Friday, a selection of walks, and the footpaths situated along the White Cliffs of Dover.

Chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said:



PRAISED: Canterbury Cathedral was identified as one of the county's real highlights

"We are absolutely thrilled by this news, and welcome this accolade from a highly respected authority on travel.

"This is the happy result of a decade of ongoing hard work to transform the county's image and offer through tourism and to bring Kent's unique story to life.

"We combine rich heritage with cutting-edge culture.

"The Kent coast is experiencing a thrilling renaissance, and we

have more Blue Flag beaches than anywhere else in the UK.

"You don't need to go to Europe for sun, sea and sand.

"Where else can you see Grayson Perry ceramics, pristine blue flag beaches, the Magna Carta, the White Cliffs of Dover, Wayne Hemingway's Dreamland, giraffes crossing a savannah, and taste award-winning English wine?"

In her capacity as chairman of the Tourism Society she added:

"The success of Kent as a product underscores the critical importance of having a joint vision and long term strategy for a destination, and the importance of destination management organisations."

Not that it was a view shared by everyone. Ben Hatch of the Daily Telegraph said: "Surely the group should change the Lonely in its title to On Another, because Kent isn't even the best place for a family day out if you live in Kent."

Moving tributes to hero pensioner killed by train trying to save 38-year-old

THE family of a pensioner who died trying to rescue a woman who jumped onto a railway line have paid tribute to his bravery.

David Ashworth, 74, a retired academic from Canterbury, was killed as he attempted to rescue Ella Akehurst, 38, after she jumped off a railway bridge on to the tracks at Chatham station, between Ashford and Canterbury, on Tuesday morning.

As he attempted to get her off the tracks a train which was not due to stop at the station struck them both. Ms Akehurst survived, but Mr Ashworth was killed as he scrambled to get back on to the platform.

She was airlifted to King's College Hospital in London and is currently in a stable but serious condition.

Mr Ashworth had been family friends with Ms Akehurst and her parents for many years.

His devastated family issued a statement which said: "We are very proud of our father's actions in

saving the life of a young lady and clearly devastated at the loss of his life in doing so.

"Our thoughts are with the young lady, her family, and the train driver and we would like to add that we request privacy at this difficult time."

Mr Ashworth was a former lecturer in solid state electronics at the University of Kent.

On his Facebook page, Ms Akehurst's brother Luke wrote: "I wanted to pay tribute to David Ashworth, much loved friend of my family for many decades, who died yesterday rescuing my sister Ella from the railway line in our home village of Chartham.

"He was a truly heroic and selfless man and a wonderful friend to my mum and dad.

"We are thinking of his family and their loss."

Witness accounts describe how he rushed to help, despite the fact a train could be heard approaching the station.

Father fumes over release of Amy Winehouse movie

THE father of the late legendary singer Amy Winehouse says he is planning to take legal action against a film about her life which received its UK premiere at the Edinburgh Film Festival on Thursday night.

Called simply Amy, the movie charts her life and was first shown at the Cannes Film Festival in May to rave reviews.

But her father, Mitch Winehouse, who lives in Greenhithe, has been left fuming by his depiction in the film, claiming it is both "misleading and contains some basic untruths".

He says he is considering his legal position.

The singer, whose hits include Back to Black and Love is a Losing Game, was found dead at her Camden home in July, 2011.

Former MP to star in Cowell show as Evans gets Top Gear

FORMER MP and now senior TV executive Archie Norman is to be one of the stars of a brand new talent show produced by media mogul Simon Cowell.

The former Asda boss was MP for Tunbridge Wells from 1997 to 2005, before standing down.

Now chairman of ITV, he will appear alongside Google boss Eric Schmidt in The F Factor - a

search for young technology entrepreneurs, with a top prize of £10,000.

Staying with TV, Chris Evans, who used to live near Maidstone during the peak of his fame on Radio 1 and TFI Friday, was this week named the new host of BBC show Top Gear. He replaces Jeremy Clarkson who left the BBC earlier this year.



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Teenagers stabbed after university house party

A PARTY to celebrate the end of the university year spilled into chaos in the early hours of Thursday morning, which left three men – including two teenagers – stabbed.

Police were called to a student house in Salisbury Road, Canterbury, at 1am following reports of an assault during a house party.

A 19-year-old was left with serious injuries. An 18-year-old was also taken to hospital, although his injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. A 21-year-old was left with minor injuries.

Ch Insp Emma Banks said: "We know the house party was well-attended and would like anyone with information about the assaults to come forward."



MASTERCHEF: Tish Potter

Actor Tish in bid to win TV cooking crown

HOLBY City actress Tish Potter was unveiled on the new series of popular TV show *Celebrity Masterchef* this week.

The 40-year-old mother of two was born in Canterbury and brought up in a village near the city.

She joined a star-studded line-up which also included Keith Chegwin, Nineties pop star Chesney Hawkes and former *Girls Aloud* star Sarah Harding along with TV presenter Yvette Fielding and former soap star Sheree Murphy.

The show, which started on Thursday, saw Ms Potter appear as one of the first five celebrities in the 12-part series take part in a series of challenges, which included Ms Potter having to tackle life in a fast-paced, pressurised top London restaurant preparing a dish which customers pay a staggering £100 for. Each show sees famous faces eliminated.

Having made her name in theatre, she went on to become a big hit playing Diane Lloyd in TV drama *Holby City*, she has also performed in TV comedy *Jam and Jerusalem*, as well as appearing in Ricky Gervais show *Extras* and the movie *Shakespeare in Love*.

Celebrity Masterchef is presented by Gregg Wallace, who lives in Whitstable.

The next episodes of the show are aired at 9pm on BBC1 next Thursday and next Friday.

'Stop wasting time and money' Manston owners warn Thanet politicians

By Maria Chiorando

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A FRESH row has erupted over the future of Manston Airport, with the site's new owners accusing Thanet MPs Sir Roger Gale and Craig Mackinlay of 'misleading the public'.

Following a meeting at the Department for Transport in Westminster on Thursday, the Conservative MPs reiterated Downing Street's support in helping the former airport return from the dead.

Their announcement came just a day after the site's owners, Chris Musgrave and Trevor Cartner, unveiled ambitious plans which would see a mix of housing, commercial and leisure development on the Thanet site now renamed Stone Hill Park (see Business Quarter section for more).

Thanet North MP Sir Roger teamed up with South Thanet's Mr Mackinlay for the meeting at the DfT with transport minister Patrick McLoughlin and aviation minister



OPPOSED: Sir Roger Gale

Robert Goodwill, to discuss the draft report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers on the future of the airport.

Manston closed in May, 2014. However, Ukip, which runs Thanet District Council (TDC), says it is pursuing plans for a compulsory purchase order (CPO) to be served on the site. It then wants to sell the airport to US firm RiverOak which insists it can turn the business around.

In a joint statement the two Conservative MPs said: "The draft report confirmed there are no impediments for a CPO to be implemented by TDC and it is now down to them to negotiate legal agreements and appropriate indemnities with RiverOak."

They hope the airport will be reopened by early next year.

But Ray Mallon, a spokesman for Messers Musgrave and Cartner said: "As MPs, [they] should know better than to mislead the public with inaccurate statements. The facts are that before a CPO can take place, TDC must demonstrate it has in place the funding not only for the costs of the process and acquiring the land but also the funding to deliver the underlying scheme in the long term."

"TDC has previously calculated that would be at least £76m. It's not going to happen and the MPs know it. It's now time for them to move on."

U-boat propeller is returned to Germans

A PROPELLER from a sunk First World War German U-boat has been returned after police recovered it in a haul of property stolen from shipwrecks in the Channel.

And in a special ceremony which saw it returned to the Germany Navy in Portsmouth this week, Kent Police were thanked for their efforts.

The propeller was seized from a property in June, 2014, as part of a joint investigation with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency into the theft of high-value items from shipwrecks.

Officers searched a house in Sandgate and discovered it fashioned into a coffee table.

A 75-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of theft and was later issued with a caution.

The handover ceremony was held on board the German Naval vessel *Karlsruhe*, which is currently docked at Portsmouth Naval Base.

PC Preston Frost said: "We are pleased to have played our part in ensuring the return of an important historical artefact."

Five hurt as fire rips through block of flats

A PROBE is continuing into the cause of a major fire in Ashford on Monday which left five people in hospital.

Emergency services were called to Oak Tree Road in the south of the town at around 3.45pm.

Fire crews found a row of buildings containing flats with one building well alight and a second with a fire in the roof space.

Dozens of firefighters using special height vehicles, tackled the blaze for nearly four hours and remained on the scene until night fall.

A man, thought to be in his mid-20s, was taken to hospital believed to be suffering from burns and the effects of breathing in smoke.

Four other people were also given oxygen therapy by the ambulance service and were subsequently taken to the nearby William Harvey Hospital for treatment. None are believed to be badly hurt.

Fire crews remained at the scene until past 9pm damping down.

An investigation into what caused the fire is now under way.

Spitfire pilot's stolen scooter is replaced

A 94-year-old Second World War Spitfire hero who has had his mobility scooter stolen from outside his home, has had it replaced by the generosity of wellwishers.

Diran Scrase, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his 'valour and courage', during the conflict had his scooter stolen in Bromley.

Two men were spotted loading it into the back of a white van before driving off.

But when Geoff Nutkins, the curator of the Shoreham Aircraft Museum in Sevenoaks, heard the news, he contacted all the museum's volunteers – who agreed to club together and get Mr Diran Scrase a new set of wheels.

Mr Scrase is a regular at the museum and has often attended signing events there alongside other veterans.

Dave Jones, from the museum, said: "He was astonished and made a short thank-you speech thanking the volunteers and Geoff for their kindness."

"He was last seen driving along Shoreham High Street at speed!"

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Port set to reveal plan for hundreds of jobs

A MAJOR announcement heralding the creation of more than 600 jobs at the Port of Dover will be made this week.

Port chiefs will unveil the full details at a press conference taking place on Tuesday.

It is part of the Western Docks Revival project and is described as a

"significant milestone" in the scheme.

It is understood the project will create more than 600 logistics industry jobs involved in the handling of fresh produce and other cargo for customers using the port.

Details will also be announced about the safeguarding of a further



140 jobs by developing a new cargo terminal.

To find the full details see our website, www.kentnews.co.uk on Tuesday.

Repair work on sinkhole after high street collapse

WORK will continue this week to fix a three-metre deep sinkhole which opened up in the middle of a busy high street on Thursday.

The hole appeared in Herne Bay High Street in the town centre, forcing one lane on a stretch of the road to be closed.

Engineers have been working

on the site which is believed to have opened up after a pothole collapsed.

The county has long suffered from the collapse of the ground.

One of the most high profile was when a hole opened up in the central reservation of the M2 motorway close to Faversham two years ago.

...also

Science network launch

LIFE sciences network BioGateway stages a special launch event this week at the Discovery Park in Sandwich.

It aims to build Europe's 'most complete life science network', utilising the county's link to the Continent.

Supermarket arrives

DISCOUNT supermarket store Aldi finally opens its new store in Dartford this week - moving into the site of the former Waitrose shop.

The official opening takes place on Thursday.

Aussies in Canterbury

THE Australian cricket team bowl into Canterbury this week for a pre-Ashes clash with Kent at St Lawrence.

The tourists play a four-day game starting on Thursday. The Ashes starts on July 8.

Repairs keep going

WORK will continue this week to fully assess the huge amount of damage caused by the fire in Week Street, Maidstone, earlier this month.

It destroyed The Works bookshop and damaged surrounding stores.

LENLEYS THE SUMMER SALE



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Margate's 'heart' beats again as Dreamland doors re-open

After a 12 year saga that saw the amusement park site derelict and empty, it has finally been restored. Reporter **Maria Chiorando** went to the grand opening...

THE epic battle to fit another major piece into the jigsaw to regenerate Margate took a huge step forward on Friday, when Dreamland's doors opened to the public.

The amusement park, which has been described as 'the jewel on the sea-front's crown' has been the subject of much anticipation.

But much more is to come, with a number of the key rides not yet operational - among them the famous Scenic Railway, which has been re-created for the new-look park.

It is hoped that in conjunction with the Turner Contemporary, Dreamland will help the town regain its status as a tourism hotspot.

Crowds started gathering early, to see the ribbon-cutting ceremony and get a good place in the queue - for some this was the culmination of a 12 year wait.

Last minute delays saw the gates open an hour later than planned, but young and old alike flooded in. It then shut at 5pm only to re-open at 7pm for a major concert to celebrate its opening, featuring the likes of Chas n Dave and Marina and the Diamonds.



VINTAGE: A blast from the past, Dreamland features classic rides, while entertainers thrilled the crowds on Friday

Dreamland dates back to the early 1860s when it was operated by the famous circus owner, 'Lord' George Sanger. The park changed hands many times over the decades, finally closing in 2005 following years of decline.

There were plans to turn it into a retail and residential site, but after a

long-running legal row, Thanet District Council bought it in September 2013 using a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).

Campaigners set up the Dreamland Trust, and secured £18m of funding, as well as appointing designers Wayne and Geraldine Hemingway.

At the opening ceremony, the ribbon was cut by Caz Bartlett and George Sanger - the great great great grandchildren of original owner Lord Sanger. As the owner of the UK's only horse-drawn Victorian circus, Mr Sanger said: "It's been fantastic. The name Sanger is Anglo-Saxon, and

means a singer, someone who creates entertainment. So it's in my blood."

They were joined by Heather Brennan, descended from former owner John Iles, and 95-year-old George Weston, who had worked as a brakeman on the Scenic Railway. He said: "It's great to be back - I'm so excited to

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LIVELY: The opening day was a sell-out - including an evening concert

see everything."

Site CEO Eddie Kemsley told KoS: "It's amazing. It's great to be open, and it's nice to see people coming through the doors."

"But there are still bits to do. We will spend the next few weeks before the summer holiday perfecting it."

The rides are due to be later this summer.

Ms Kemsley added: "There's so much more to come but for now the successful launch of phase one is a testament to all those involved in the project and those campaigners that saved Dreamland for the nation."



LIVE: The park will offer a programme of live art - including these circus skills

SO DOES DREAMLAND LIVE UP TO EXPECTATION?

FOR MANY who grew up in Kent and east London, visiting Dreamland was an annual treat.

The amusement arcade worked its way into the heart of young and old alike, so the team had a challenge on their hands, in creating a venue that appealed to a wide audience - as well as tapping into the sense of nostalgia.

First glances suggest they have managed to do just that. But all visitors need to be aware this is far from the finished product.

Many rides are not yet operating - a situation which should have changed by the summer.

Designer Wayne Hemingway

has spoken at length about the 'brand' he aimed to create - teaming a vintage aesthetic with a modern twist throughout every aspect of the design.

He has succeeded in doing this.

Every element of Dreamland, from the light fixtures, to bins, to the slogans on the staff uniforms conforms to the look, and is quirky, colourful and fun.

One of the most striking aspects of the park is the entrance from the carpark, which leads straight into the centre of the Scenic Railway.

Project architect Ray Hole describes this as 'walking into a maelstrom of activity'.

Once the railway is running, it will be spectacular to walk into the park with trains rushing around the track above your head.

And this area of the park will be free entry. After walking through the roller coaster, there are turnstiles leading to the park on your left, and the arcade, replete with roller discos, pizza and vintage pinball parlour to your right.

Dreamland is an impressive monument to local campaigners, politicians and designers.

Return at the end of August and it should be an even more compelling proposition.

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CONTENDERS, READY: From left, Labour leadership hopefuls Andy Burnham, Yvette Cooper, Liz Kendall and Jeremy Corbyn

Opinion split on just who should lead Labour towards redemption

Sarah Linney speaks to the county's left-wingers about who they're backing in the race to the top

IT seems just when you thought politics was going to calm down for a bit, along comes the Labour leadership contest.

When nominations closed at noon on Tuesday, four candidates had thrown their hats into the ring: shadow health secretary Andy Burnham, shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper, shadow minister for care and older people Liz Kendall and backbencher Jeremy Corbyn (see box).

Mr Burnham is the favourite, having secured the highest number of nominations from fellow MPs. But it is Mr Corbyn who is rapidly nabbing the most headlines.

He is, after all, old school Labour, and representing a return to its left-wing roots which Tony Blair dragged the party away from back in the mid-1990s as he pursued power.

Many feel he represents the direction in which the party needs to move after a pasting at the general election which saw its supporters desert it for Ukip, the Greens and, north of the border, the SNP.

But others believe Labour can only be electable if it remains close to the centre. For Kent, it is particularly relevant as following May's poll, it was widely believed for Labour to ever regain power it had to win over the centre ground voter in the south east.

Among them is former Thanet South MP Steve Ladyman, who served in Blair's government. He said he was likely to back Mr Burnham.

"He's straightforward and personable, and I think he understands middle England," Dr Ladyman said.

"I am probably veering towards him – for me and for Kent. I don't think Kent will ever warm to an old-fashioned, 'Old Labour' politician. Kent needs to hear the sort of aspirational politics Tony Blair was putting forward.

"England starts off, on average, from a right of centre perspective, especially in the south east. Labour won't win again unless it goes in that direction.

"We have to convince people that we have ideas that are in line with their aspirations. The people you need to get to vote Labour are the people who don't normally do so."

He said that Yvette Cooper was also an experienced candidate, but that Liz Kendall was too inexperienced.

"Yvette and Andy have both been around the block a bit; they know how things work, and how to take the knocks," Mr Ladyman said.

"Liz only came into the House in 2010. She obviously has a lot of great qualities or she wouldn't have been able to get enough people to back her in that short space of time, but leaders should have seen the inside of different departments and committees."

He added, laughing: "And I am saying this with a smile on my face, but Jeremy Corbyn is as mad as a wagon-load of monkeys."

Medway Labour's deputy leader, Teresa Murray, said she was also supporting Mr Burnham.

"He has experience and he is very easy and natural with people," she said. "I find him genuine and honest, and I was extremely impressed with the work he did to try to stop the Coalition's health and social care act.

"I don't think Liz Kendall will connect with people as well as Andy. I like Jeremy, and he has been a fantastic campaigner for causes that are important to the Labour Party, but I think we need someone younger.

"Yvette Cooper seems quite gentle, and I think it may be harder for her to get her point of view across at the despatch box. And I think people will always keep going on about Ed Balls [her husband]."

Kent County Council Labour leader

Gordon Cowan said he was oscillating between Mr Burnham and Ms Cooper, with a slight preference for Mr Burnham.

"I think he has been a good minister and is listening to what people are looking for," Mr Cowan said.

"Yvette Cooper has also done some fantastic stuff for Labour. She has great direction and is very clear, positive and good at bringing forward her initiatives, and I do want to listen more to her.

"Liz Kendall may be a future leader, but Jeremy Corbyn is not a leader to take us forward in the direction I believe we need taking forward in. We are looking for a strong leader who can drive us forward and put the economy, regeneration, new housing and healthcare at the top of the list.

"We have to be just left of centre, looking after working class people and low to middle-income people.

However, Tristan Osborne, who challenged Tracey Crouch in Chatham and Aylesford at the general election, was a strong supporter of Liz Kendall. "I am backing her 100 per cent," he said.

"She is a fresh candidate who looks to the future. She does not see herself

as a New Labour candidate. She wants to persuade people who haven't been traditionally Labour that they can trust us this time.

"We have to accept that on economic matters we need to become more credible, and that there are solutions in public services that are not necessarily based on ideology."

He said he thought Mr Burnham and Ms Cooper had too many links with the past.

"I have a lot of respect for Andy, but I don't think he represents the future. He was a minister in the Blair government, and he is not necessarily reaching out to people who haven't voted for us in the last ten years," Mr Osborne said. "Yvette is a very good candidate, but she also represents the past, having been a minister, and some of her campaign conversations are very safe. However, I agree with a lot of what she has to say.

"It's a very close call, but I think Liz has been braver and recognises the scale of the challenge.

"I share very few positions with Jeremy. His positions are not credible with the British public. If he were to win it would be a Michael Foot situation all over again."

Medway Labour leader Vince Maple said he had not decided who to support, and was hoping all the candidates would attend a hustings in Medway organised by the group on Wednesday, July 15.

"All four have different skills and attributes and proven track records, and I want to hear more from them," Cllr Maple said. "The next leader has to appeal to the Scottish voters who voted for the SNP, people who voted Labour between 1997 and 2005, and those who voted for the Greens and Ukip. That's probably more of a complex challenge than any Labour leader has had. And we have a really big challenge in Kent.

Former Thanet South candidate Will Scobie agreed. "Lots of people in Thanet like Jeremy Corbyn as he has been down and helped a lot, but I want to see what each of the candidates has to offer Kent," he said.

"A debate that's stuck in whether we go left or right is not a debate the party should be having at the moment. We need to look at how we are connecting with people.

"We don't just need a bit of rebranding and different spokespeople – we need a root and branch review."

THE FAB FOUR: WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?

ANDY BURNHAM: The bookies' favourite, and the most popular choice among fellow MPs so far. Was elected to Parliament in 2001 and served as a minister under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Now shadow health secretary. Once considered a Blairite, but also popular with trade unions.

YVETTE COOPER: Shadow home secretary since 2011, she also served as a minister under Gordon

Brown, becoming the first female chief secretary to the Treasury in 2008. Married to former shadow chancellor Ed Balls, who lost his seat in May.

LIZ KENDALL: Elected to Parliament in 2010 as MP for Leicester West. Shadow minister for care and older people. Considered to be on the right of the party, and in the mould of Tony Blair, she says Labour needs a "fundamentally

new approach" but her inexperience may well cost her.

JEREMY CORBYN: MP for Islington North since 1983. On the left of the party and seen to be ensuring the left has a voice in the contest. Has a long history of standing up for causes, from opposing the Iraq war to campaigning against nuclear weapons. Says he has entered the contest to add an anti-austerity voice to the debate.



DEDICATED: Megan McKay and Lynda Garrett show off the tiny designs. Picture: STEVE POSTON

Transforming wedding dresses into funeral gowns for babies

Maria Chiorando reports on a remarkable business which is providing comfort for those in mourning

FOR many women, their once-cherished wedding gowns hang languishing in their wardrobe. But a not-for-profit organisation based in Dover has come up with a meaningful and moving way to recycle them.

Megan McKay is one of the founders of Cherished Gowns for Angel Babies UK. Along with Lynda Garrett, they have built-up a group which takes donated wedding dresses, and turn them into burial gowns for stillborn babies, or babies who die shortly after birth.

Ms McKay says: "To have these burial gowns for their babies means the world to parents.

"Their babies were very much wanted, and the parents lost everything when their children passed away.

"To know that someone has crafted a beautiful outfit for their child, and put the time in lets them know someone cares.

"All parents should be given the opportunity to dress their baby and all babies should be laid to rest in a special item of clothing. And this could be the only outfit a baby wears, so it has to be lovely."

According to the group every year around 17 babies a day or 3,500 a year are born sleeping or sadly pass away shortly after birth.

Just one wedding dress can make many outfits for babies. Though according to Ms McKay, it's impossible

to give a definitive answer as to how many.

She says: "We get asked this question a lot. The thing is, every dress is unique and it very much depends on how much fabric there is.

"A smaller dress with no train may only make five or six cherished gowns, but a bigger design with a large train and lots of layers of lace could make up to 50. But more importantly, however many gowns are made from a dress, every single one will be donated to a family who have tragically suffered this huge loss."

The team receive many dresses – this year already over 1,000 have been donated. "We will never turn any down though," says Ms McKay.

"We are always very grateful for the donations. But a bigger issue is that we need more seamstresses. We have around 280 working around the UK at the moment, but they work at different speeds, and it can also depend on the time they have available.

"Anyone who would like to get involved, and has the right skills, would be very welcome to join us."

The gowns made from the dresses come in five different sizes and the seamstresses also provide gender neutral wraps for babies that are too small to be dressed.

The group provides items from 16 weeks through to one year old at no cost to the families that lose their baby, working directly with hospitals to provide items so that they are

available as soon as they are required, but also with funeral homes.

"We accept requests from family and from their friends as well," says Ms McKay.

David lost his daughter at just nine days old.

"She was so tiny," he explains. "What's known as 'micro-premature' and she weighed little more than 1lb. While we knew she probably wouldn't pull through, it is unbelievable how much you can miss someone who is around for such a short amount of time.

"She changed our lives forever.

"She was a fighter, more than anyone I've ever met, and she deserved something special to wear.

"Thinking about those kind of details at that time was impossible – it was actually my wife's sister who organised the wrap. It meant a lot. She will never get to dress up in her own wedding gown or party clothes, so we wanted her to have something special. It was nice that someone handmade it, and that someone else had passed on an item of clothing that was so important to them."

"For a lot of people," Ms McKay explains, "they have their dress, and it's just taking up space somewhere. Before, it was more common to save your dress for your children, which doesn't happen as much now.

"Most people, even if they haven't been directly affected by miscarriage or stillbirth, know someone who has, and they want to help –

“ She was a fighter, more than anyone I ever met, and she deserved something special. She will never get to dress up in her own wedding gown or party clothes so we wanted her to have something special ”

David,
Grieving parent

they think it is a great cause."

People wanting to donate dresses will contact the charity, which then sends out the address of an appropriate seamstress. "This way is much more efficient, in time and money, than us receiving and re-sending out all the dresses," she explains.

For those wanting to volunteer, there is a short registration process. After this, the wedding dresses will be sent on.

When seamstresses receive the wedding dresses, they wash them in a delicate detergent to remove any dry cleaning chemicals and any dirty marks. Once dry, the gowns are carefully deconstructed along the seams, with any embellishments

that may be able to be later used on the cherished gowns, removed. The fabric can then be used as any other.

It's a very time-consuming cause, with Ms McKay spending every evening on the project, as well as up to five hours during the day.

"Once the dresses have been made, we make up packs, containing a gown. Parents are also given a blanket, hat, cloth nappy and booties – that's what I spend time doing when I'm not making gowns.

"Ms Garrett helps with the admin and making packs but isn't a seamstress."

Despite the time-investment, according to Ms McKay it is 'hugely satisfying' to be working on the project.

She says: "You are helping people who have lost everything. You want these parents to know that there are others who care."

The group accepts bridesmaids dresses, formal, christening and flower girl dresses in any condition as well as wedding dresses, and men's silk ties and cravats as well as waistcoats. It is not necessary to dry clean items before sending them as volunteers wash everything before they work on the gowns.

David says: "It's a wonderful idea, and a really touching service. I can't thank anyone who is involved in this process enough."

To find out more or to help, visit the organisation's website at www.cherishedgowns.org.uk



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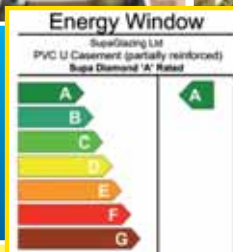
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HIT: Are You Satisfied? went straight into the UK album charts at number eight this month

Slaves to the rhythm: Meet the top 10 band with attitude

Molly Kersey speaks to rising chart duo Slaves about the success of their debut album and how they started out in the county's live music venues

LIKE a well known lager, Kent may not do many pop stars, but when it does they may be the very best in the world.

After all, we can lay claim to providing the meeting place for Mick Jagger and Keith Richards in Dartford and thus is home to the world's finest rock 'n' rollers, the Rolling Stones.

What's more, David Bowie spent his formative years living and performing around the county before he became one of the most iconic and inspiring figures with his exotic blend of fashion and music. Another global God of the music scene.

But they tend to be few and far between.

Now, however, we may have a contender. A new kid on the block. And they've created a little bit of Kent rock history, perhaps, by one of them even having the county name tattooed on their hand.

Because two-piece punk band Slaves shot

straight into the top 10 album chart earlier this month with debut *Are You Satisfied?* and are now on the road on a tour which takes them on a gruelling circuit of UK and European festivals - among them the likes of Reading and Bestival - and as far as Japan.

Peddalling energetic guitar riffs and whipping up excitable crowds, Slaves are on the Virgin EMI label and are fast making a name for themselves.

For Laurie Vincent, 22, who grew up in Maidstone, and Isaac Holman, 23, who has just moved back to Tunbridge Wells, their wild live performances are developing a reputation.

Not so, however, their celebrations at news of their album's success.

As guitarist Mr Vincent explained to KoS: "I went out for pizza. We haven't really celebrated yet, to be honest."

In fact, the pair have a refreshingly modest agreement to take the success in their stride and to not get too carried away just yet, be-

“ We try and keep it as local as we can and wrote our songs here. We always tell everyone we are from Kent so we can try and inspire people from here ”

Laurie Vincent,
one half of hit duo Slaves



SUCCESS : Laurie Vincent, 22, who grew up in Maidstone, left, and Tunbridge Wells' Isaac Holman, 23.

cause "there's always more to do". And their touring schedule certainly doesn't give them much room for anything else. In the space of two weeks in August they jet to Japan then Holland, Belgium, France and back to the UK for shows

That's not to say they weren't thrilled though.

He added: "We were pretty overwhelmed. It hasn't sunk in yet. I don't think we expected to do that well."

"To get a top 10 album was beyond a dream."

The album may have dropped out of the top 10 the following week, but it is a major step forward on their rapid rise.

It is the latest in a string of successes for the duo - who grew up in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells respec-

tively.

After early releases on an indie label, they were signed by Virgin EMI last year, appeared on TV show Later With Jools Holland, which coincidentally is filmed in Maidstone, and were nominated for BBC Sound of 2015 -

which aims to find promising new talent.

And they offer a unique sound.

Explains Mr Vincent: "We get called punk quite a lot and lots of people have arguments about whether we are punk or not so we decided its primal."

"We are trying to talk about how people should be inspired. We want to do something different."

The pair met in Tunbridge Wells some four years ago.

"We were both in different bands around Kent," the guitarist adds, "I was a big fan of one Isaac's early projects - Bareface."

"I went to one of their shows and we met afterwards."

Mr Vincent eventually joined the group as a bass player, but the two decided to branch off and form their own band and they have formed a firm friendship.

"We are like brothers now. We do everything together," said Mr Vincent. We just want to make the music we want to make and keep creating. We want to keep evolving and getting better and writing albums."

"We don't want to be the same in 20 years. We really admire people that reinvent themselves and keep interesting - like David Bowie."

The band worked nine-to-five jobs alongside trying to make their breakthrough in the music world, "stacking shelves and mopping floors".

"I was working in a milkshake shop and I was a tattoo apprentice. Isaac was doing care in the community and working in Topman as well," Mr Vincent said.

"I still do a lot of art and go back to

Continues on page 16



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Continues from page 15

the tattooing as well."

They did as many gigs as they could, driving from place to place and playing smaller venues in a bid to get their breakthrough.

The hard work paid off, and Mr Vincent has loved the leap into full time music.

"It was a dream," he said.

And they had no idea just how much their band would take off.

"When you are doing something yourself you don't consider it in the grand scheme.

"You don't consider the effect it's having. But someone said to us recently 'you have proved you can be in the top 10 without making a generic record'."

Their rise to fame hasn't been without its difficulties - they took to their Facebook page in May to post an impassioned speech after receiving criticism about their name, which read: "Our name and music is aimed at being a slave to day to day life and routine, it is a metaphorical use of the word."

Mr Vincent previously lived in Maidstone, attending Oakwood Park School. His parents continue to live in the town in Kingswood.

"I'm not back as much as I'd like to be," he says, but enjoyed growing up in the town - although admits it is something of a live music wasteland.

"I didn't have a bad childhood but I don't think you get exposed to much here.

"There weren't loads of shows going on and it feels like quite a small town, even though it's not really.

"It's not very inspiring.

"I had a good group of mates, from

other schools and we were in bands together, but nothing really used to happen," he said.

"The hardest thing about a band is getting the right formula and getting an original idea."

Mr Holman, on the other hand, has moved back to his native town in the county - and is really enjoying it.

"Isaac lives in Tunbridge Wells again, he has just moved back. He loves it. He's Tunbridge Wells through and through, the quieter town suits him," said Mr Vincent.

Mr Vincent is now living in New Cross and he said that he enjoys being London-based. He remains true to his roots, however - even having the word Kent tattooed on his hand.

"We played a lot of shows around Kent and people ask us to come back now, but when we were there originally they weren't interested, so it's quite funny now," he said.

"One promoter used to go around bad mouthing us to everyone."

They ended up gaining a reputation in Maidstone as 'trouble makers' after their fans got a bit too over-excited at a gig.

"It sort of shows you don't get a lot of bands passing through there. It's quite likely there's going to be a mosh pit, so for us it wasn't really our fault we got black listed," said Mr Vincent.

And Kent influences make their way into their songs too, the inspiration for which comes from their everyday experiences.

"Where's Your Car Debbie? was written when we were at the Tunbridge Wells Forum," said Mr Vincent.

The song tells the story of a spooky walk through the woods, during which the pair try and help an ac-



SUCCESS: They are so devoted to the county, one even has 'Kent' tattooed on his hand

quaintance find her car.. and get scared of encountering Bigfoot.

"Girl Fight was about Isaac seeing girls fighting in Tunbridge Wells," Mr Vincent added.

"Most of our songs were written in Kent early on. We try and keep it as local as we can and we always tell everyone we are from Kent to try and inspire people from there.

"We played lots of places, we played the Command House in Chatham,

Rafters Club in Maidstone, Platform Five in Ashford, really small little pubs and stuff."

Familiar local Shaun Williamson, who lives near Faversham and grew up in Maidstone, and is best known as Barry Evans in EastEnders also appeared in one of their videos.

"We are a very hands on band when it comes to things like videos.

"We'd be on set telling them we wanted to do different things. Seeing

your idea come to life is always fun."

Mr Vincent has also used his illustration skills to help create the band's covers.

"All the art work and imagery is really simple and in your face," he said.

"I do the sample works and we will get people to help us piece it together in the end."

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FLIGHT: A Spitfire prepares for take-off in front of the gathered crowds at the former RAF base which played such a key role during the Battle of Britain back in 1940

Spitfires roar overhead again as thousands flock to flight festival

Sarah Linney enjoyed the sights and sounds of a major airshow at the former RAF airfield at Biggin Hill last weekend as the successful airport now starts preparation for another Battle of Britain event



Pictures courtesy: Mike Rivett; Laurence Pierce & Paul Johnson

A WEDspectators watched in wonder on Saturday as the Red Arrows staged a spectacular display at the Biggin Hill Festival of Flight.

The Royal Air Force aerobatic display troupe wowed 18,000 spectators at the sell-out show with a zooming, looping, multicoloured extravaganza of twists and turns in the air.

And in a stunning and never-before-seen addition to their display, they flew in a V-formation with Spitfires and Hurricanes from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, marking the 75th anniversary of the battle in which the airfield played a vital role as one of the commanding bases.

Spitfires and Hurricanes from a variety of squadrons were based at the airport, and its airmen destroyed 1,400 enemy aircraft – but at a cost of 453 of their own lives.

The airfield was attacked 12 times between August 1940 and January 1941, and 39 people were killed in the most severe bombing.

Among the spectators was 93-year-old war veteran Ron Bayford, whose wartime exploits were immortalised in the book *The Adventures of Binkie Bayford*.



DAZZLING: The Red Arrows flew in stunning formation with the Spitfires and Hurricanes much to the delight of the thousands who gathered to watch

Mr Bayford, who was 18 when he volunteered for the RAF in 1940, was an aircraft crewman and escaped death on several occasions during the war. He had come all the way from Grays in Essex to watch the show.

The festival – now in its second year – featured almost four hours of

flying displays, with Hurricanes and Tornados gracing the skies too, as well as Messerschmitts from the German Luftwaffe.

An attack sequence involving the Hurricanes and Spitfires on one side and the Messerschmitts on the other, accompanied by dramatic pyrotech-

tics, provided an all-too-realistic glimpse of the horror of the battles.

A solo Spitfire display provided the final tribute to The Few at the close of the eight-hour festival.

Unfortunately, technical difficulties prevented some of the aircraft on the bill from reaching the airfield, in-

cluding the American Boeing B-17 Sally B and the RAF Chinook helicopter.

But there were plenty of other attractions, including Second World War re-enactors, 1940s singers, ra-

Continues on page 20

Continued from Page 19

dio-controlled boats, cars and model aircraft, a 1940s tearoom and more.

Festival organiser Colin Hitchens said he thought the festival was special in many different ways.

"The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain brought us many visual images that strongly reflect a tribute to The Few," he said.

"Perhaps the most poignant was the Red Arrows formation with the Spitfires – but there were many others.

"We shall never forget Churchill's

“ Perhaps the most poignant moment during the event was the Red Arrows in formation with the Spitfires - but there were many others ”

Colin Hitchens,
Festival of Flight organiser

Few. We shall always owe them our deepest gratitude."

All 18,000 tickets were sold in advance of the event - selling out some 10 days before the show took place. Organisers were committed to selling no tickets on the gate to prevent huge build ups of traffic heading to the site.

It was all a far cry from previous years when the event would drag in



DISPLAY: Spitfires and Hurricanes flew in formation above the crowds last Saturday, while the Red Arrows, right, take to the skies



tens of thousands of people for its acclaimed International Air Show and later Air Fair.

Held each year since 1963, the major events were shelved in 2010 and replaced last year, in a rather more modest scale, by the new Festival of Flight.

This year's festival is not the only special event to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Britain at the airfield.

On August 18, 18 Spitfires and Hurricanes will gather at the airport – exactly 75 years from 'the hardest day' when, in 1940, the aircraft and airfield was subject to the most intense attacks.

Biggin Hill was a key sector station where 32 Squadron were flying Hurricanes and 610 (County of Chester) Squadron operated Spitfires.

At lunchtime, a heavy attack was launched on Biggin Hill and nearby RAF Kenley, near Croydon, that continued in waves throughout the day.

Apart from landing to refuel and re-arm, the Hurricanes and Spitfires were airborne continuously long into the evening and despite intense damage to the airfield – at no time was it non-operational.

By the end of the day, 32 Squadron had lost seven Hurricanes but not one pilot, 610 Squadron had lost two



GROUNDING: There was plenty of things to do on the ground too at festival

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Spitfires but no loss of life.

To mark the anniversary, the Spitfires and Hurricanes will fly a commemoration sortie with three formations, starting with a stream take-off at 1pm. The first formation will head towards the Isle of Wight, the second fly to Dover and over the former RAF Hawkinge and the Battle of Britain

Memorial at Capel-Le-Ferne.

A third formation will route over former Battle of Britain airfields at West Malling, Detling and Gravesend. A limited number of tickets at £40 will be available for VIP access to the Battle of Britain enclosure on the airfield, including the flight line. For tickets see www.bigginhill75.co.uk.

THRILLED: The crowds enjoyed a dazzling display by the RAF Red Arrows despite the clouds altering their planned flight



PACKED: All 18,000 tickets sold out ten days before the event took place at the airfield



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Wh d e a

Chris Murphy takes a look at a move which forever changed the health of the cross-Channel industry...

AS MYFERRYLINK prepares for its final days of business, it is perhaps hard to remember an era not so long ago when the cross-Channel ferry business was booming.

And at the heart of its remarkable success – not just as it was the key way to access the Continent – was the enormous demand for duty free shopping.

The ships became pleasure palaces, designed more as floating retail centres as shoppers flocked to stock up on bargain priced alcohol and cigarettes.

Day-trips were hugely in-demand, as were non-landers, when passengers would hop on a ferry, travel to France, stay on board, and simply travel back home again having bagged their cheap deals.

"We used to have miles of shelves packed top to bottom with just booze and fags," said one ferry worker.

"That was all people wanted and they wanted it all in huge quantities. Personal allowances were all but scrapped, but buyers still had to somehow claim it was all for personal use."

There was a party atmosphere on board ferries with discos, dances, and entertainment, so even more booze was sold on board.

Gangs got wise to the massive savings and modern day bootleggers were reinvented – some with fleets of white vans literally 'living'

on the ferry decks. There was big money involved and ferry companies were making around 20 per cent of their entire income from the booze trade.

Captain Bob Blowers, the senior master of the Pride of Calais, told author John Hendy for his book Remembering the Chunnel Beaters, the Pride of Dover and the Pride of Calais: "The years 1988 to 1994 were the bonanza years for the company with the duty-free-for-all era of the booze cruise."

"Takings in the fleet's sales outlets could total as much as £1 million on a weekend."

"It was not uncommon to have day excursions down from the Midlands with 600 booked breakfasts for the 4am sailing, the somewhat befuddled passengers having spent the first half of the night on the coach."

And Dennis Mee, a senior purser, added: "Apart from being superb car and freight carrying vessels, they were capable of generating enormous amounts of cash from on-board activities, far more than most people realise."

"At the peak of the business each ship was generating in excess of £30 million per year from retail and food sales with profit margins that were unheard of in a shore side operation."

"At peak times the purser often asked the captain to slow the ship down just to get everyone through the duty free shop. When duty free be-

tween EEC countries was abolished the massive retail operation disappeared and I doubt if the entire cross-Channel fleet now generates as much income as one of these great vessels."

The end was signalled due to two major developments in the 1990s.

The Channel Tunnel was going to open and duty free sales would be scrapped in 1999. They were replaced with duty paid products, which took the shine off the profitable bargains that were once there for the taking.

The ferry companies knew the results would be devastating. A year before duty free went, Stena and P&O merged in a £410m deal to save costs. Stena was previously Sealink, a name that vanished in 1996.

Almost overnight, when duty free was scrapped on July 1, 1999, the company saw a massive slump in trade.

Previously, the two companies were running around 13 ships between them across the 22-mile stretch of water between Kent and the European mainland, and it was soon realised this was unsustainable.

A P&O spokesman told us: "Previously, the government instructed the two companies not to co-operate with each other."

"But it became obvious some rationalisation was required for them to stay in business."

They merged to become P&O Stena



IMPRESSIVE: Sealink's cutting edge Fantasia ferry

and eventually the Stena name was bought out.

In August 2000, financial experts at This is Money reported: "One year after the abolition of duty free, P&O Ferries – and more particularly its 60 per cent-owned cross-Channel venture P&O Stena – is showing the pain of losing the lucrative booze cruises."

It had been just months and the effects were shattering. From a positive figure of £30m in the first six months of 1999 which included the last month of duty free, the group tumbled to losses of £1.4m.

The ferry company said at the time that retail sales on board were recovering but at half the previous margins.

The idea of duty free sales appealed to the British public because our government taxes on the likes of drink and cigarettes have traditionally been huge.

The rationalisation of the cross channel industry was devastating.

Brian Rees, spokesman for P&O used to work at Stena and saw it all first hand.

He told us: "Duty free and the Channel Tunnel was a double whammy."

"It was very easy, lazy almost, to rely on duty free, but that was doomed as well."

"It all meant the Dover ferry industry was completely and utterly unsustainable in its then form."

"P&O and Stena had a vast fleet of



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ORIGINAL: SNCF's Champs Elysees, which would later become the SeaFrance Manet. Above, P&O's Pride of Dover

s b
only way through that, and that was a very, very painful business transformation.

"Around 1,000 jobs were initially cut, and eventually the number of ships went from 13 to the five we have now and the Zeebrugge line has gone completely.

"Working arrangements were changed with staff living and working on board for a week at a time to save money."

He said the on board shops have also changed: "If you go on board today, you will struggle to find the cigarettes and alcohol. The main things on sale now are beauty and fragrances. We even have a luxury

category manager at the company now.

"We have had to adapt dramatically. It is now a million miles away from the way it used to be. There was no choice. I don't think the ferries would have vanished completely, but it has had to change.

"The change has been so major it feels like it all changed 50 years ago rather than 25. We have emerged from those times to become a company that is very different.

"At its peak, the Port of Dover was probably doing about 22 million passengers a year.

"It dropped back to eight or nine million when the duty free went. It

is now about 13 or 14 million."

These days, we have duty paid shopping which means the duty you pay is lower than in the UK, but the savings are not quite at the levels of duty free.

But now there has been yet another twist of fate that is seeing the booze cruiser return, although not in the same numbers.

It seems it is down to cheap fuel prices on both sides of the Channel and the pounds strength against the Euro.

Mr Rees said: "We are seeing more people go across for a short break to do some sight-seeing and stocking up on the way back."

The British government has re-

cently kept duty frozen on wine, plus cuts in rates for other types of alcohol, and lower taxes in France all combine to create a renewed interest in booze cruising.

The popular Carrefour supermarkets report a recent 14 per cent rise in Brits arriving at their doors – that goes towards a 56 per cent rise in the past two years.

Brits are even filling up their cars in France because it is currently cheaper at about £1 a litre.

■ Do you remember the duty free hey-day? Share your memories with us. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 87 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email us editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



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Training the canine force in the fight against crime

Maria Chiorando heads to a secret location to see the next generation of police dogs being put through their paces and finds out just what qualities they need



THEY may have a reputation as man's best friend, but the humble dog can also swiftly become a criminal's worst enemy.

And for many years, canines have been lining up alongside their human counterparts in the ceaseless battle against lawbreakers.

Today, they remain an essential weapon in the police force's arsenal – as effective with crowd control as they are pursuing a suspect or sniffing out explosives. But just how are these highly trained animals prepared for a life on the beat?

On a field at a secret location near Maidstone, KoS joined officers as they ran through their paces – loyal hounds performing feats before returning to praise and congratulations.

The dogs are all carefully selected as puppies before entering the service to be trained. Not that it was always this way. Before switching only to breed-

ers, all police dogs were donated by the public. The only problem with that was many came as older animals and often with behavioural problems which posed a problem when they needed adjusting for police work.

After all, the police animal must be trusted to be sociable and friendly when necessary and potential vicious with those who turn violent.

Ian Warner is dog section sergeant. He explained: "The dogs complete a 13-week training course, often starting it when they are about one year old. After that, they train 20 days a year, and of course they are always learning with experience."

"We get dogs that come from very strong working lines; they need a strong drive to do this job. The dogs are all trained on reward – any dog that loves their toys, you can train to do this kind of work."

"It's a game for them, and we think they get to do some of the activities nature intended them to do. We have better dogs now than we had in the past. We source them as puppies, and get them from extremely reputable breeders. They are really special animals."

And versatility, he adds, is key. "They might be looking for a

child," he says, "or going after someone who is going to beat them up, which is why they have to have that ability to be gentle, as well as strong. When looking for people, it could be a criminal on the run, but it could easily be a vulnerable person, such as a child."

PC David Belsey is a dog section instructor. As an experienced handler, he now helps train newer handlers.

He explains: "German shepherds are generally used for the majority of our work. They are trained to track people, and help chase people. They are remarkable trackers."

"We use labradors for drugs, and springers and labs for explosives. Drugs dogs can also find cash and weapons such as guns."

"Explosives dogs are trained for all types of explosives, and drug dogs are trained for all types of drugs. They can find them hidden on people or concealed in buildings and houses. Generally labradors search people and springers search premises."

"All the dogs are all trained for obedience and agility, and some are trained to work with firearm officers."

Sgt Warner says demand to be a dog handler remains high: "We have about 44 working dogs at

any time and 27 PC handlers – so around half will work with two dogs."

"It is very specialist. First and foremost, you have to be an excellent officer – that's the first thing we look for. Candidates have to pass all interviews, and assessments. It is very popular – lots of officers want to be handlers."

"We are looking for qualities like natural empathy with the dog – the stuff that can't be learned."

"Handlers are police officers first, and they do all policing – they are not just sitting around waiting for the dog work to come in, but when the calls do come, they deal with them."

"All of our dogs live with their handlers – none of them are currently kennelled. They spend all of their time with the handler, who is with that dog 24/7. The bond between the dog and the handler has to be strong. If they don't have that hierarchy, the relationship won't work."

During the session, the dogs show off some of their skills with their handlers PC Paul Bassett and PC Paul Diddams, including finding drugs that are planted on someone, tracking a trail, and finding an object.

PC Belsey says: "There is a misconception that drug dogs have



ACTION: All pictures: PAUL BENNETT **CLOCKWISE:** PC David Belsey, PC Paul Bassett and PC Paul Diddams



to ingest these substances, or get addicted to them. That is not true – they never have to take anything at all."

After secreting an illicit substance into a pocket, the enthusiastic German shepherd has no problem sniffing it out.

Following a trail is another exercise. "This is almost too easy for some of the dogs," says PC Belsey. "Someone will walk a specific route then hide. The dog will use his nose to follow the trail, then wag his tail and bark when he finds them. They still smell the trail some time after the person has gone."

Sargeant Warner explains why the dogs are trained to find objects.

"While we don't always directly find the baddie, we often find pieces of evidence that can be tracked to a person using forensics," he explains. "This is something that has developed over the last few years, and we are much better at it."

"The dogs can be trained to find things as small as buttons – it is the human scent they are searching for. They use their noses – if you imagine a huge area, especially in the dark, it can be practically impossible to find smaller objects by eye.

The dogs are much better placed to find things with their nose."

Once the dog finds the object, he lies down with the object between his paws.

The dogs retire when they are about eight years old. According to the sergeant, they often can work for longer, but that runs the risk of the dog getting injured.

He says: "They are dogs, they get injured about the same as other dogs. We don't put them in position of getting injured, and in fact I had a dog that never had one throughout his life. When it happens though, the veterinary treatment they get is second to none."

After retirement, the vast majority of the dogs continue to live with their handlers.

So how important are these canine police?

"I am biased," says Sgt Warner, "but they are absolutely important. They are a special resource that you can't get anywhere else – no-one in the world has found another animal that can use their nose like dogs. Nothing beats them. These dogs bring an added value."

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ROAMING: Steven Spielberg's monster hit has reignited interest, once again, in creatures which roamed our lands millions of years ago.

When dinosaurs ruled the Earth and stomped all over our county

With cinemas expecting another bumper weekend thanks to Jurassic World, we asked a top dinosaur expert to paint a picture of just what it was like in Kent when the beasts existed. **Chris Murphy** reports

AS fans flock to watch the latest Jurassic World movie on the big screen, an expert told KoS this week that Kent was "crawling with dinosaurs" millions of years ago.

But Dr Ed Jarzembowski, who used to run the palaeontology department at Maidstone Museum, says movie-makers have taken some liberties with timings, but that below our feet will be the remains of thousands of pre-historic creatures.

Dr Ed, as he is popularly known, told us: "The dinosaurs, as we know them, were not around in the Jurassic period.

"They were around during the 79 million years of the Cretaceous Period, but movie director Steven Spielberg thought that didn't sound sexy enough.

"So while his new film is out and doing well, I can say that Kent, which was a flat lowland then, would have been crawling with dinosaurs."

Kent only physically split from the European mainland some 6,000 years ago, Dr Ed explained, allowing the creatures to roam vast areas.

The Cretaceous period was between 145 and 66 million years ago. The Jurassic period was between 201 and 145 million years ago, so some time before the dinosaurs arrived.

Jurassic, named after the Jura Mountains in the Alps, saw small reptiles and sea life which only became much larger as the period drew to a close and gave way to the Cretaceous.

It is widely believed they were then

wiped out by what is known as an 'extinction level event', thought by many to be as a result of a meteor or comet hitting the planet.

This was the period that saw the dinosaurs depicted in the Jurassic Park films, like the tyrannosaurus rex and velociraptor. The familiar triceratops was also around.

One of the best known dinosaur remains uncovered in the county remains the iguanodon found in 1834 during the excavation of a quarry in the Queen's Road area of Maidstone. One fossilised bone soon uncovered a huge find.

The fossil is now on display as part of the Natural History Museum's hugely popular dinosaur section in London. The iguanodon also forms part of the town's coat of arms.

Dr Ed, who regularly visits various major earthworks in Kent to dig for more artefacts, said: "This really is just one example of the dinosaurs that were in Kent all that time ago.

"We would have had a variety of long-neck dinosaurs and those with armour too.

"The land would have been very fertile making for easy feeding and development.

"Many of these remains will be deep underground, and these days will probably only be disturbed if fracking starts."

He said there are so many places traces of ancient life can be found, and he has even discovered insects in amber, which he will soon be subjecting to micro-CT scans in London.

Dr Ed said: "It is these bugs and small creatures which hold a fascina-

tion for me. They can give away a lot about what life was like all those millions of years ago.

"They can be found in Kent quite frequently. I like to regularly visit a particular works where we are allowed to gather samples to analyse."

It is by extracting the DNA from the blood of mosquitoes which became stuck in tree sap which in turn became amber over millions of years, which Jurassic Park bases its story line of the return of the dinosaur.

Dr Ed said he is not against films like Jurassic Park, in spite of their inaccuracies, because it does create interest in the subject for more youngsters.

He told us: "It is important we don't forget how the planet evolved and what happened on Earth during these important periods. While Hollywood takes a few liberties, if these

films create even a few more students I am happy."

Jurassic World is the fourth in the series and made a record-breaking opening in cinemas across the world when it opened last weekend.

Globally, it took more than \$523m (£329m) with analysts saying it could finish its run having banked close to £1bn globally. It follows in the record-breaking footsteps of 1993's original Jurassic Park.

If you want to go out looking to find your own ancient relics of yesteryear this weekend, then the good news is you may find yourself face-to-face with dino remains closer to home than you expect.

Explains a spokesman for the UK Fossils Network: "Kent has some of the best locations in the UK. Sheppey is the best location in the UK for the Eocene London Clay, with shark

teeth, lobsters, turtles, fish, plants and crabs all to be found.

"Folkestone is best for Gault Clay in the UK, with ammonites being very common and Kent is a popular location for chalk fossils. The chalk cliffs of Dover are world famous. Echinoid's are very common, and some of the finest are found here in Kent. Overall, you could say that Kent has a fantastic mix of geology with very productive sites."

It highlights Warden Point and Minster on Sheppey, plus the Gault Clay cliffs at Copt Point and in the Warren and East Wear Bay, all in Folkestone. With patience, Birchington, in Thanet, can throw up specimens like sea urchins.

Away from the coast, you could try old quarries and pits around the Wye Downs. For more information, visit www.ukfossils.co.uk/kent.htm.

ARE CHICKENS DINO DESCENDENTS?

WHILE dinosaurs, as we know them, died out nearly 70 million years ago, they have some surprising descendants that are still very much with us.

Scientists at the University of Kent have discovered that chickens bear a stronger resemblance to dinosaurs than any other birds.

Darren Griffin and a team at the university conducted research that suggests that chromosomes of the chicken and turkey lineage have undergone the fewest number of changes compared with their

ancient avian ancestor, thought to be a feathered dinosaur.

According to a spokesman: "The living descendants of dinosaurs were thought to have undergone a rapid burst of evolution after most dinosaur species were wiped out.

"The detailed family tree of modern birds has however confused biologists for centuries and the molecular details of how birds arrived at the spectacular biodiversity of more than 10,000 species is barely known."

According to Professor Griffin,

bird genomes are distinctive in that they have more tiny microchromosomes than any other vertebrate group.

These small packages of gene-rich material are thought to have been present in their dinosaur ancestors. The team found that the chicken has the most similar overall chromosome pattern to its avian dinosaur ancestor. The team came to their conclusion after studying information from a total of 21 avian genomes and one reptile species.



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Making an art form of the train journey from London to Margate

Molly Kersey plugs into a new app which is set to brighten up the trip from the city to the Kent coast

If you ask someone to describe a train carriage, the words 'special place' are unlikely to spring to mind.

After all, for many, the mode of transport is merely functional and something you love to hate.

Anyone who has got a commuter started by mentioning season ticket prices, or people daring to talk to friends in their carriage, will discover only too soon that there is little pleasure to be derived from train travel.

On top of this, delays and disruption to services are a common cause of agitation and annoyance.

But artist and composer Claudia Molitor sees things very differently.

She has used the high speed train journey from St Pancras International to Margate as the inspiration behind her latest piece, the highly interactive – Sonorama.

And its aim is to remind everyone of the delights of a train journey – and the pleasures which lurk outside our window as we rush through the Kent countryside.

The piece has been produced by contemporary art organisation Electra in partnership with the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate.

In short, it is a free app which can be downloaded onto your smart phone for those travelling from London to the Kent coast, who can enjoy a blend of compositions, spoken interviews and historical background to inform you about each stage of the journey as you rush through Ashford, Canterbury and Ramsgate.

She collaborated with historian David Hendy at the British Library to find a variety of material in the archives. Once you open the app you can select where you are on the route to start listening with headphones.

It is supported by Southeastern and was launched on Friday.

For Ms Molitor, the aim is very much to ensure a revival in the enthusiasm for train travel and to enjoy the ride.

She explained to KoS: "It's about re-evaluating what it means to journey. We always think 'we are at A and we want to get to B', and we think this is an annoyance, and the train carriage is a non-space, it's just 'whatever'.

"But I personally do a lot of thinking on the journey because it takes you out of your normal life, you can just stare out and think.

"I just wanted to say, it could be a special place, it is a special place.

"It's extraordinary that you're in this little capsule and you're taken somewhere else and then you step out. But mostly we think of that time as not having happened.

"When I say to you 'how was yesterday?' unless your train was diverted or something you're probably not going to talk about that period of your life.

"So I thought well that's quite interesting, to position a piece of art in a place that is so unspecial in a way.

"I think of the journey as the score that I have made pieces for."

The tracks on the app look at a range of topics including Roman history and hop-picking.

"The railways really started because of hop-picking, maybe that's completely common knowledge for some people but for me it was extraordinary," Ms Molitor explained.

"Things like that popped up and were quite exciting."

Ms Molitor has been working on the piece for some two years, after using trains regularly to get to her job as a lecturer and noticing that what went on inside the carriage had little connection to the outside.

She wanted to find a way to bridge the gap between the two.

"The commute I was doing was from Brighton to Chatham to the University of Kent where I used to work - so it was up to London and then out to Chatham," she said.

"So it wasn't really that route, but part of it was in Kent."



ARTIST: Composer Claudia Molitor has spent the past two years researching and creating the Sonorama app.

So why that route in particular?

"I knew it had to start in St Pancras because of the British Library," she explained.

"Also because that route to Margate is the high speed and you're so cocooned in that train, much more than any other train. There's this real disconnect between the outside and the inside of the train, which I don't find any other trains have apart from this high speed service.

"Until Ashford you are either in the tunnel or in a verge and you have hardly any views. Then after Ashford towards Margate suddenly the view opens. Before Ashford it's very industrial and after it's very rural. It's a strange journey of two halves."

And it is symbolic that the journey ends in Margate, given the partnership with the Turner Contemporary.

The Sketch of the Score for Sonorama, which is a graphic score of Ms Molitor's reading of the journey, is now displayed in the gallery.

It features a tiny replica Javelin train and model railway, made by Broadstairs-based Hornby's.

"The Turner Contemporary is at the other end so it's a nice point to get to," Ms Molitor explained.

"It's quite nice that you then do the journey and you end up there and see the score. You think oh, that's what I've just been following."

The partnership with the gallery came about through a chance encounter between Ms Molitor and Victoria Pomery, director of the Turner Contemporary, at the University of Kent's Chatham campus.

Ms Pomery said: "She and I bumped into each other two years ago and

had a very nice discussion and here we are with the work downloadable on the app and in our foyer- and it looks fantastic, I think."

Sarah Martin, head of exhibitions at the Turner Contemporary, added: "The project seemed to be a really interesting one in terms of the breadth of the media and the fact it was very much rooted in Kent.

"The fact it's on the train and it's free to download makes it so much more accessible to a broad range of people.

"I make that journey a lot for work reasons so it feels very familiar. When you are sitting on the train you are not really looking at the window, you are drifting off and thinking about different things."

The app is available for both Apple and Android and available now.



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PRESS LAUNCH OFF THE RAILS

THERE is no small amount of irony to the fact that as I prepare to embark on the train journey from Ashford International to Margate - joining the last leg of the press launch journey - we are met with delays.

In fact, it soon transpires that actually, we are not going to be taking the route through Canterbury West to Margate at all.

Given that these are the areas that the app invites us to delve into, few commuters would struggle to see the funny side. There was no fault of Southeastern at its cause, but for an event it was organising it was hard to suppress a smirk.

Instead we take a diverted route after the train pulls away from Ashford International, going through Dover Priory and stopping at Ramsgate instead.

Here, we make a mad dash to the

connecting train to Margate and just manage to catch it - with some lugging tripods, heavy bags and cameras.

The phrase 'it would be today wouldn't it?' is used wistfully once or twice, but everyone remains cheerful and the last minute change of plans are accepted with good humour.

We all make it to the Turner Contemporary, strolling along the seaside and making the most of the beautiful weather.

All things considered, the journey really isn't too bad and the rest of the day goes very smoothly.

Claudia Molitor remains in extremely good spirits throughout, taking the events of the day in her stride. After all, a day out to Margate in the sunshine is one which would put a smile on the face of anyone.

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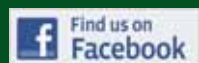
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County's role in coffee explosion

Maria Chiorando discovers how the takeaway coffee you buy may well have its roots close to home

IT MAY seem strange, but did you know that around eight out of ten cups of coffee served up on the high street in this country contains beans roasted in Kent?

The United Coffee roastery in Dartford is the largest in Europe, producing more than 8,000 tonnes of coffee every year – with around one per cent of the global export coming to the site on the Riverside industrial estate.

The beans, which are sourced from all over the world, are carefully chosen then brought to the site to blend and roast.

Rahul Ghosh is the director of roastery operations for the company.

He says: “We produce over 8,000 tonnes of coffee each year, including roast commercial coffees, own label and roast and ground coffee for some of the UK’s chains and even for individuals.

“We use 80 different types of coffee bean which create over 200 different blends.”

The company work with customers to discuss the ‘roast profile’ they are looking for – essentially the flavour and type of coffee they are looking for. Once this has been chosen, small trial batches can be tested to achieve the desired blend.

According to Mr Ghosh: “The process is controlled by state-of-the-art programming, which gives us consistency, and means there is little need for trial and error. The roasting team can make batch-by-batch adjustments and respond to the factors which can affect the roast.”

These factors can include the condition of the green coffee, the roast-

BREWING UP... THE FACTS

- When they come off the plant, coffee beans are green.
- Coffee beans are actually the pits of berries. The coffee berries are an edible fruit that have coffee beans inside, which are called beans because they look like beans.
- The roasting process takes these green beans, and changes the chemical and physical properties to transform them into a palatable drink. Green beans contain levels of acids, protein, sugars, and caffeine as those that have been roasted, but lack the taste of roasted coffee beans.



- Coffee tends to grow better at equatorial climates – some of the most prolific coffee growing areas

- are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Vietnam.
- Brazil is the world’s largest producer of beans – it is also one of the only countries on earth that grows both Arabica and Robusta beans.
- These areas have different seasons, as well as producing beans that have different qualities in terms of strength and flavour.
- There are more than 5,000 coffee shops in the UK.

ery temperature, humidity and air pressure – which are all important to the taste of the coffee.

Speaking of the taste, coffee is a complex business and it takes many years and qualifications to become a taster.

Mr Ghosh says: “The guys we have here really enjoy it – they are tasting many cups a day. But it is hard work to become qualified. And on top of the work, you need to naturally have the right palette.

“We have a couple of what is known as ‘Q-graders’ on site, who will analyse the green coffee, and then some others tasting the blends.”

According to Q-grader and coffee development manager Guyan Munaweera: “The way you roast is the way to reveal the hidden potential within every bean, and release the distinct aromas and flavour

characteristics into every cup of coffee. For us, it’s all about ensuring consistency and quality in every roast, and testing at all stages of the process.”

Mr Ghosh adds: “It’s not just about roasting and packaging the coffee. We are a full service. We provide and maintain machines, but importantly, we also train baristas.

“This training means baristas can use full advantage of the coffee quality.”

Baristas are those who work the machinery and create your coffee in the many stores and cafes up and down the nation.

United Coffee is not Kent’s only roastery – there are smaller ones throughout the county, including Micro Roastery which has a coffee shop in Canterbury. According to its proprietor, this delivers coffee to cus-

tomers in a different way.

Roastmaster Nich Chasteauneuf says: “The coffee industry we are in – the speciality section – is in the middle of a renaissance. We are in a bit of a boom of micro roasteries. Everything comes back around, they were fashionable in the 1960s and 70s, and now they are back.

“Working at this scale, we are concentrating on speciality coffee, very high end arabica beans, and roasting them in small batches, and getting them out fresh. We want people to experience lots of different brewing formats.”

According to Mr Chasteauneuf, freshness is an issue for most coffee. He believes his coffees are at their peak three to six days after roasting – for this reason, only whole beans are supplied.

He says: “This maintains the fla-

vours and aromas until water is passed through the grounds – and beans can be ground when they are used.”

As the demand for speciality coffee rises, the shop is working to keep up with orders.

“We have a tiny little roaster at the shop,” he says. “We have been using it for years. Now we have a new 5kg roaster – it’s an exciting time. We’ll still be roasting small batches, but looking to develop further relationships with hotels and other outlets, as these artisan products become more mainstream.”

Despite the artisan nature of coffee produced by these micro roasteries, Mr Chasteauneuf, is keen to make the product as accessible as possible.

“I dislike pretension around coffee,” he says, “and I think that kind of snobbery can put people off. Some places will have tasting notes, but it’s important to remember you’re not ‘getting it wrong’ if you don’t experience all the flavours in the notes. Some coffees with have subtle raspberry high end notes for example, but they are subtle and you may have to search for them, and you may not interpret the flavour in the same way.

“So I think it’s important not to be too snobbish about it.

“Interestingly though, there are more compounds in coffee than wine, which means we may end up experiencing coffee in a similar way to wine. It’s exciting to think that someone may only have had instant coffee, so introducing them to these products could really open up their experience – ultimately, the important thing is to enjoy it.”

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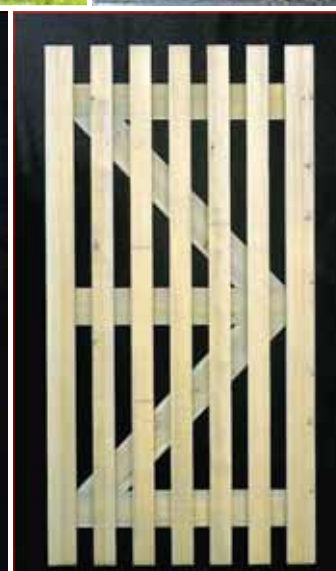
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HUMOUR: Belinda Lang takes to the stage as no-nonsense Aunt Eller. Credit: Pamela Raith.

Cheerful songs and shocking twists in store

As the classic musical comes to Canterbury, **Molly Kersey** goes to see what it has to offer....

REVIEW: Oklahoma!

Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

FROM the outset of Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, *Oklahoma!*, it seems fairly clear cut what it is that is going to happen.

Overly confident cowboy Curly is trying to charm proud and passionate Laurey.

He desperately wants to invite her to a barn dance, but their clashing personalities get in the way of this becoming a reality.

They bicker, they make up, they argue again. But despite this, it is obvious they are madly in love and will eventually end up together.

No-nonsense Aunt Eller, brilliantly portrayed by Belinda Lang, is all too aware of this.

She doesn't take their arguments seriously in the slightest, at one point declaring that Curly should just get it over with and kiss Laurey.

The score includes hits like *Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'* and *People Will Say We're In Love*, and these are performed by the all-singing and all-dancing cast with aplomb.

But just as you are lulled into a false sense of security, a cheerful escapism full of bright songs and happiness, the play takes something of a dark turn.

Because Curly isn't the only one enamoured with Laurey.

Farm hand Jud is harbouring a dark obsession for her himself, a dangerous infatuation that threatens the potential happiness of the love-struck couple.

He is a sinister and unnerving character, living alone in a small shack that is plastered with images of women that both shock and sicken sweet-natured Laurey, and determined to purchase a nasty-sounding weapon.

The dramatic sub-plot helps to add depth to the lively production, with songs used to delve into the psychology of Jud.

While the musical doesn't dig too deeply into complex political issues, it is set in 1906 – the year before the region was united to form the 46th state of the union – it addresses tensions and territorial disputes in the song *The Farmer and the Cowboy Should Be Friends*.

The tale of how the state of Oklahoma! came into being is a drama in itself – with a huge number of Native Americans displaced and endless disputes, which Rodgers and Hammerstein knew better than to discuss when the musical made its debut in 1943.

Characters adding humour to the play include Ali Hakim, played by Gary Wilmot, a peddler who ends up wooing a number of impressionable women, staring down the barrel of their father's shotguns and unwittingly stumbling into marriage proposals.

Lucy May Barker and James O'Connell work well together as hopeless Ado Annie and her doltish lover Will, who will get married if only her father can be persuaded – with \$50.

Laurey is portrayed beautifully by Charlotte Wakefield, who combines the right mixture of strength and vulnerability in equal measure.

Alone, she cries over Curly. In a group of friends however, she puts on a brave face and says she won't be moping about it – she's just going to buy a new dress, brush her hair and start all over again.

Even though she is haunted by nightmares of the frightening Jud, she confronts him with courage and ferocity when faced with a dangerous situation.

Despite moments of darkness and despair, Laurey and Curly, of course, realise their love for each other in the end.

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UNWRAPPED: Gemma Chan is unveiled as a sound purchase which goes wrong in Channel 4's biggest TV drama for the last ten years. The show continues tonight.

Robotic age 'far in the future' as Humans debuts to big TV figures

Channel 4's new drama has proved a big hit. But, asks **Chris Murphy**, are we anywhere close to an era when we may all soon be investing in life-like robots to do our chores and become our companions?

A LEADING academic says the chance of life imitating art with a breed of life-like robots working in our homes and carrying out jobs is not just around the corner.

His comments come as Channel 4's much-hyped new drama, *Humans*, depicts a modern world where we can buy robots to act almost like slaves in our homes.

The creations look and act just like us, but need regular charging up and, as the show demonstrates, some may be so sophisticated they break their programming.

Dr Ian Hocking is a senior lecturer in the school of psychology, politics and sociology at Canterbury Christ Church University.

He said to interact with a robot on a human level will take a mind-blowing amount of computer power that simply is not available.

He told us: "I don't see it happening in my lifetime. To have that much processing power in a unit the size of a human is incredible.

"That's why we still do not understand our own brains. I suppose in the future, we could model an artificial brain, but that is not likely in the foreseeable future.

"Even if we can come up with enough computer power just to read a person's face and their emotions and understand what they are feeling, it is a whole new level required if that person is messing about or acting.

"We humans can often read when someone is doing something but

meaning something else - a synthetic won't be able to do that unless the brain is completely mapped and every possible outcome is programmed in.

"And the work involved in that is still beyond our comprehension."

One of the writers of *Humans*, Jon Brackley said: "We've taken care not to pass judgement on this world. We're not presenting it either as a utopia or a dystopia. It's a world that we think could happen, and we've tried to portray it as realistically as possible, and offer both sides of the argument."

University of California at Berkeley, computer science professor Stuart Russell, is a co-author of the standard textbook on artificial intelligence used around the world.

He warns: "As machines get smarter and smarter, it becomes more important that their goals, what they are trying to achieve with their decisions, are closely aligned with human values.

"A domestic robot, for example, will have to know that you value your cat, and that the cat is not something that can be put in the oven for dinner just because the fridge is empty."

Dominique Chu is a senior lecturer at the University of Kent with specific interests in computational intelligence and future computing.

He told us: "I don't think we will make artificial humans, and I have to ask why would we need to.

"Do we want these robots in our old people's homes so we don't have to concern ourselves with them anymore. Or in prison - will a robot be able to rehabilitate the inmates?"



HOME: A robotic future vision

He added: "In the future we will have robots for certain tasks like household chores but in a way we already have those, like dishwashers.

"There will always be so many short-comings with artificial intelligence at a human level. That is because the brain is so complex, we still don't understand how it all works. Until that has been done, we won't be able to program robots to that level, and again I have to ask if really want to go that far.

"The human mind is so complex, you won't be able to code it at all. Having said that, we still don't know what will be possible in another 100 years.

"You could eventually code simple emotions, but you could never have an interesting conversation with a robot, not yet at least."

Actress Gemma Chan, who plays

'BIGGEST DRAMA IN A DECADE'

IT had been touted for weeks as must-watch television, and it seems our appetite was sufficiently whetted as more than four million people tuned in last weekend to watch the first part of Channel 4's robot drama *Humans*.

The show proved such a hit that it trounced BBC1's magical drama *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* by almost two to one, taking an almost 20 per cent share of the total TV audience.

The figures represent Channel 4's biggest audience for an

original drama in ten years and now wears the crown as the channel's biggest ever drama.

Produced in conjunction with US broadcaster AMC, which was the company behind the likes of huge hits *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad*, the show features the likes of William Hurt and the *IT Crowd*'s Katherine Parkinson.

It is adapted from Swedish drama *Real Humans*.

It runs for eight episodes. The next episode is aired tonight (Sunday) at 9pm.

robot 'synth' Anita, is convinced they will be real soon. She said: "It's just a step away from what we have now. I mean the technology we have already with iPhones and Siri [Apple's in-built voice activated 'assistant' on its devices]; we call up a call centre, or ask our phone a question; you don't necessarily have to speak to a person, you speak to a machine.

"This is just a step on from that in imagining a world where we do have humanoid servants or robots that do all the jobs that we can't be bothered to do anymore.

"I think in parts of the world that's already the case, where a lot of the work force has been replaced by machines, so we're not far off really."

She added: "In the world of *Humans* you get to see people's fears and prejudices towards technology and the benefits and possibly the down-

sides of our lives being made easier in a way. But you know in gaining some things, you lose other things.

"In today's age with the internet we seem to be so much more connected to the world and yet there's a disconnect as well: we might talk to our family and friends less, we have less real interaction and I think the show explores all of those themes."

There is no shortage of apocalyptic warnings of making such progress, including from the likes of Professor Stephen Hawking who said super-intelligent artificial intelligence "could spell the end of the human race".

Like many others, Channel 4's show centres around what is considered 'the singularity' - the moment when the technology we create becomes so sophisticated it assumes its own sense of awareness and surpasses our own abilities.

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IMPOSING: The Martello tower in Dymchurch is an impressive site in its coastal position - but did you know it was originally built to stop a feared invasion by the French?

Redundant Napoleonic towers reach out for an artistic future

Molly Kersey looks at how an historic abandoned military fortress became an artistic inspiration

TUCKED away behind dense foliage, on a rarely frequented part of a coastal promenade, lies an artwork drawing attention to an overgrown historical monument. The mirrored walk in structure - named *Towards the Sound of Wilderness* - features a window, through which a glimpse of a Martello tower can be gleaned.

The hidden gem was gifted to Folkestone by Spanish artist Cristina Iglesias during the Folkestone Triennial - an event which sees talented artists use the town as their canvas, creating artwork that will remain once they have departed.

Covered by an abundance of greenery, it would have been easy for the tower to remain unnoticed had Ms Iglesias not carved out a path to allow people to view it once more.

Not only is it a hidden treasure, it focuses the mind on the round-walled Martello tower, an historic throwback and one of many that are scattered throughout the county.

The small defensive forts were built in several countries that the British Empire encompassed, a scheme of protection against Napoleon.

They were round, to help increase the range and sweep that the soldiers had, and stood at around 40ft high.

Their thick walls of solid masonry helped to defend them from cannon fire, with the walls facing the sea actually thicker than those on the landward side, and they had a single heavy artillery piece mounted on their roof which could make an arc of fire if needed.

More than 20 of these were built in Kent. Their main purpose was to help

keep the country safe from an anticipated invasion, and many were situated along the coast, where the best view could be gained.

Dr Keith McLay, dean of the faculty of arts and humanities at Canterbury Christ Church University, said: "The Martello towers came about at the beginning of the 19th century as a result of the fears of a French invasion at the start of the War of the Third Coalition in 1803.

"It was really expected that Napoleon would invade Britain.

The towers were inspired by a round fortress at Mortella point in Corsica, built in 1794.

"The system there had been developed in the mid-16th century," said Dr McLay. "It was decided to try and adopt that along the British coast line, to defend against the threat of a Napoleonic war. Their construction was pretty substantial. In building them, the British Government invested time and effort into it because it was really thought that this was the way to draw off or ward off any invasive force."

So while the external view of a tower is familiar, to many, what did they look like inside?

"You tended to have two storeys, a basement and the floor above that," said Dr McLay. "In the basement you would have the store rooms, that sort of thing. They would have a garrison of up to about 25 men."

The length of time these soldiers stayed would vary. "It would just be a standard military rotation. It would vary because some of the garrisons would be required to go abroad and fight and so on."

However, despite all of the hard



ART: Cristina Iglesias' installation at Folkestone

work that went into constructing them, they were never actually used for their original purpose.

Napoleon needed to take control of the Channel from the Royal Navy in order for the invasion to be successful, which he was unable to do.

Dr McLay said: "There was history about how this was an effective way of warding off an invasion threat. It was presented as a good thing to do and it just underscores the irony that they weren't used."

So with the towers not needed to defend the country, what happened to them?

"They continued through to 1815," said Dr McLay. "They continued throughout the 19th century but increasingly became redundant.

"Some were discontinued, others continued on. There are still examples of them today. Some are houses, other just lie abandoned.

"Others were decommissioned or



replaced by Palmerston forts."

Palmerston forts were built during the Victorian period following worries about the strength of the French Navy.

Despite the Martello towers not being used when it was anticipated they would be needed, they still had value. They proved to be effective in the fight against smuggling, with the coastguard taking many of them over once the threat had passed.

During the Second World War some of them were returned to the military, who used them as firing and observation platforms.

Today they hold a number of uses. One, located near Wear Bay Road in Folkestone, has been converted into a house.

A Shepway District Council spokeswoman said: "We own two, one in Folkestone and one in Dymchurch.

"Martello tower number three, at East Cliff, Folkestone, is owned by

Shepway District Council, and is currently leased to the Creative Foundation. It is one of 26 originally built in the county.

"Now 17 of Kent's towers survive - from East Cliff in Folkestone to Dymchurch. The rest either fell into ruin or were lost to the sea."

Another tower in Dymchurch was taken into the care of the English Heritage's predecessor - the Ministry of Works - in 1959, remaining in their care ever since.

Isobel Uden, of the English Heritage, said: "It's open by appointment. It has been restored and it is re-equipped with its cannon.

"It's quite small inside so it needs to be one group at a time, so if you make an appointment you will probably have it to yourself with our key keeper there, who will talk to you about its use. You get the feeling of what it would have been like for a soldier living inside."

Others, like the one which forms a crucial part of artist Ms Iglesias' work were left abandoned and overgrown.

"Towards the Sound of Wilderness has to do with the act of looking close and also looking far," Ms Iglesias explained. "The window looks into the mote and to the Martello tower, all invaded by nature.

"I liked the story of the Martello tower and how they were never used to protect but nature took over in this one. It was perfect to construct my piece creating a place to look at it and remember.

"To do a contemporary piece that somehow includes the historic monument in its discourse is interesting and inspirational. It was lovely to work with the people in the town."



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INSIDE: Visitors could enjoy glorious displays at the historic castle

Floral delights provide castle scent of success

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HUNDREDS flocked to see one of the county's most historic landmarks bloom amid a flood of colours and styles this week.

The annual Hever in Bloom event ran until yesterday (Saturday) at Hever Castle, near Edenbridge and allowed visitors to tour the gardens and witness the dramatic and beautiful displays in and around the castle itself.

Spanning more than 700 years, the castle was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII's second wife, who became Queen of England for just 1,000 days.

Gradually it fell into decline before wealthy American businessman William Waldorf Astor invested time, money and imagination in restoring the castle when he acquired it in 1903. He restored its reputation as one of the county's foremost buildings, with a lake and gardens as well as extensively renovating the house.

A spokesman explained: "Hever Castle's gardens were laid out between 1904 and 1908 by Joseph Cheal and Son to display William Waldorf Astor's unique collection of Greek and Roman statuary collected while he was American ambassador to Italy.

"At this time of year, it's easy to imagine you're in the Mediterranean as you wander through the Italian Gardens before returning to the charm of the quintessentially English Rose Garden."

Visitors also got to take daily garden tours as well as pose their own gardening queries to experts.



MAJESTIC: Blooms flourished in the gardens

Key sights for visitors were the colourful summer displays of bedding in the Italian Garden and the romantic walled Rose Garden.

Planted in blocks of colour from palest pink to deep crimson and rich purple, varieties range from the Alba and Bourbon to Hybrid Tea and Floribunda.

Also on display is its very own Hever Castle Rose (Horquinsey) which was launched by Dame Judi Dench, who admits to being a regular visitor to the site.

For details on opening hours see the castle's website at hevercastle.co.uk.

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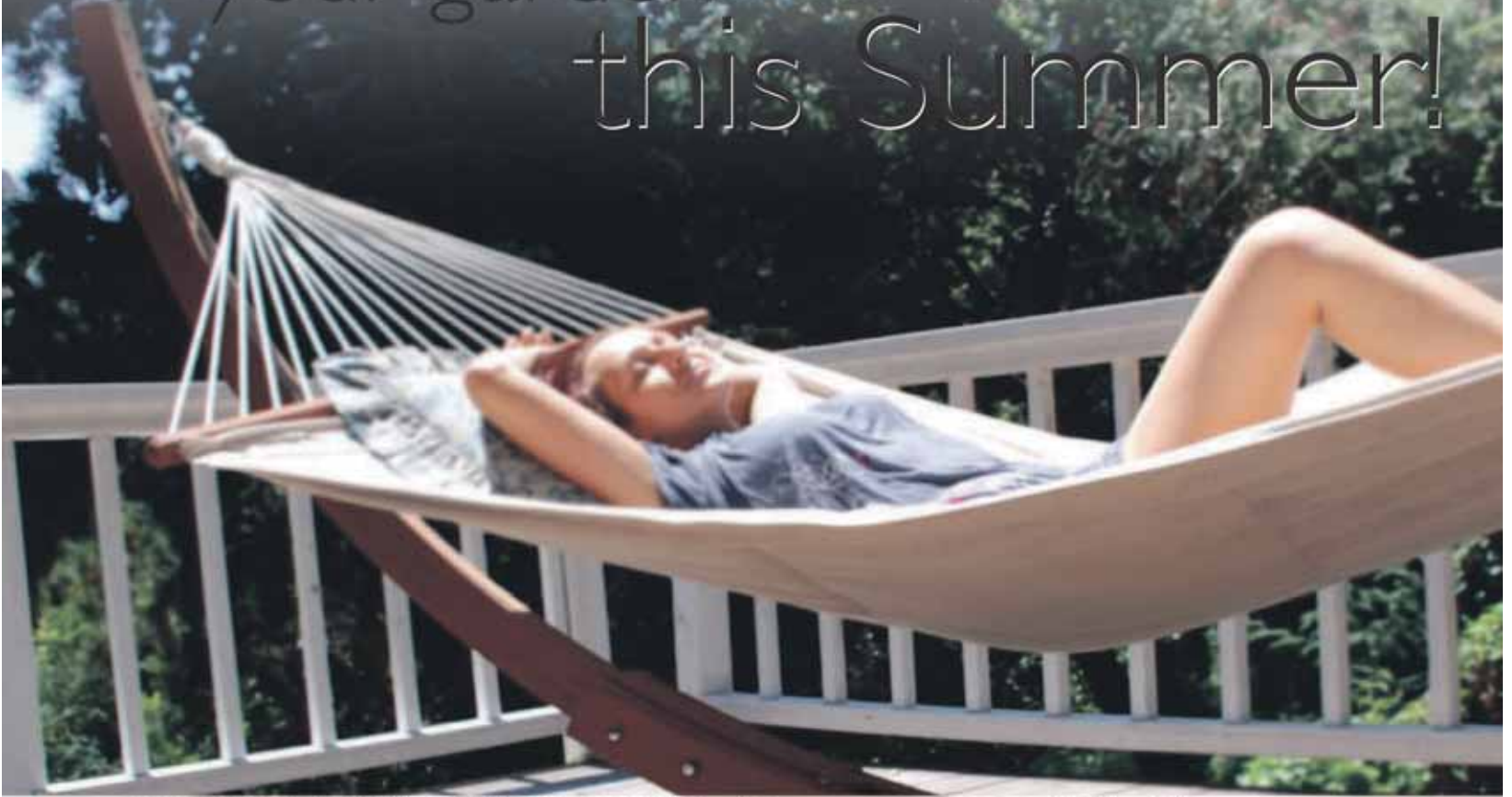


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Win Leeds Castle Classical Concert tickets

THIS year's Leeds Castle Classical Concert will feature the world famous Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by John Rigby.

Now in its 37th year, the popular classical concert is a highlight of the summer season and for the first time, features The Definitive Rat Pack.

The organisers of the Leeds Castle Classical Concert are also thrilled to announce two incredibly talented soloists.

Baritone Ross Ramgobin will mesmerise crowds with his stunning performance of Rule Britannia plus

others, while tenor Anthony Flaum will wow with his rousing rendition of Nessun Dorma.

So, why not join the crowd of 10,000 waving flags and enjoying picnics to sing along to the traditional and uplifting music and enjoy an emotional finale of stunning fireworks, in the vast natural amphitheatre at Leeds Castle.

The castle once again hosts the spectacular open air summer concert on Saturday, July 11.

Tickets are priced at £41 for picnic-style entry and £51 for seated

entry. To book tickets and find out more visit www.leedscastleconcert.co.uk.

And that's not all... Kent on Sunday and Leeds Castle have teamed up to offer readers the chance to win a pair of picnic style tickets to the concert.

To be in with a chance of winning please answer the following question:

This year's event marks which act's first ever appearance at the Leeds Castle Classical Summer

Concert?

- A) The Infinite Rat Pack
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Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate. Winners will be selected from all correct entries.

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Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of Tuesday, June 30, 2015, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by BBA Digital Helpline Telephone 0844 3572403. Alternatively enter by post to Leeds Castle Open Air Concert, Archant KOS Media, Suite 104 Kent House, Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PP, including your answer, name, address, postcode and contact telephone number.



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Delight as comet probe awakes

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

'HELLO Earth! Can you hear me?' has sent the world of science into orbit this week.

The European Space Agency's project to land a probe – known as Philae – on a moving comet was heralded as a spectacular success when the probe reached the surface of Comet 67P seven months ago.

But their delight was quickly silenced when the device apparently died.

This week, however, scientists, including those in Kent who had worked on the project, reacted with delight when, out of the blue, the device sent the short message alerting the world to its survival.

It is thought it needed the time to allow solar panels to charge its energy back up.

Comets spiral around space for billions of years. This one comes from the Edgeworth–Kuiper belt, a region of the solar system beyond our own familiar planets. It could hold secrets from space far deeper than we have ever seen before.

The University of Kent's Dr Stephen Lowry is from the centre for astrophysics and planetary science.

Currently touring California, he spoke to KoS this week about just how



BACK: This is how the Philae probe looks having landed on the comet's surface

significant this latest breakthrough is.

He said: "Re-establishing contact with Philae is very exciting and opens up opportunities for scientific studies that were not part of the original plan. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the lander will receive enough power from the sun to restart the science experiments, especially those that were not fully implemented when Philae first landed."

The comet's full name is 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko and is

hurtling through space at some 84,000 miles per hour. It is just 2.5 miles wide and 2.7 miles long. Simply landing on the comet was a spectacular achievement. It was picked out by the ESA as a likely target over a decade ago.

Philae is a solar-powered 100kg robot lab about the size of a washing machine. It was dropped on to the surface of Comet 67P by mothership, Rosetta, last November after a 10-year trek over 300 million miles.

Dr Lowry was involved in Osiris, the scientific imaging system on the Rosetta which helped identify the area on the comet most suitable for Philae to be landed.

It's believed the solar panels, vital for power, were not able to capture rays from the sun as Philae was possibly leaning the wrong way in a ditch.

But the unpredictability of space travel means that perhaps the comet's own angle changed during its pas-

sage and the panels and sun aligned; as least for a while.

When it originally landed, it functioned well for 60 hours before falling asleep when the batteries finally expired.

For whatever reason, it has not sparked back to life and has transmitted signals for two minutes and sent 40 seconds of data.

There is plenty of optimism at the European Space Agency now. Stephan Ulamec, project manager at the German Aerospace Centre said: "Philae is doing very well. The lander is ready for operations."

ESA director general Jean-Jacques Dordain said: "This is a big step for human civilisation."

Since reawakening, more than 300 data packets have been analysed by the teams at the Lander Control Center at the German Aerospace Center, known as DLR.

"Philae is doing very well: It has an operating temperature of -35°C and has 24 watts available," said Dr Ulamec. "The lander is ready for operations."

When analysing the status data it became clear that Philae also must have been awake earlier, and Dr Ulamec said: "We have also received historical data – so far, however, the lander had not been able to contact us earlier."

The Earth teams know there are still more than 8,000 data packets in Philae's memory waiting to be transmitted. It's hoped this information will reveal what went wrong.

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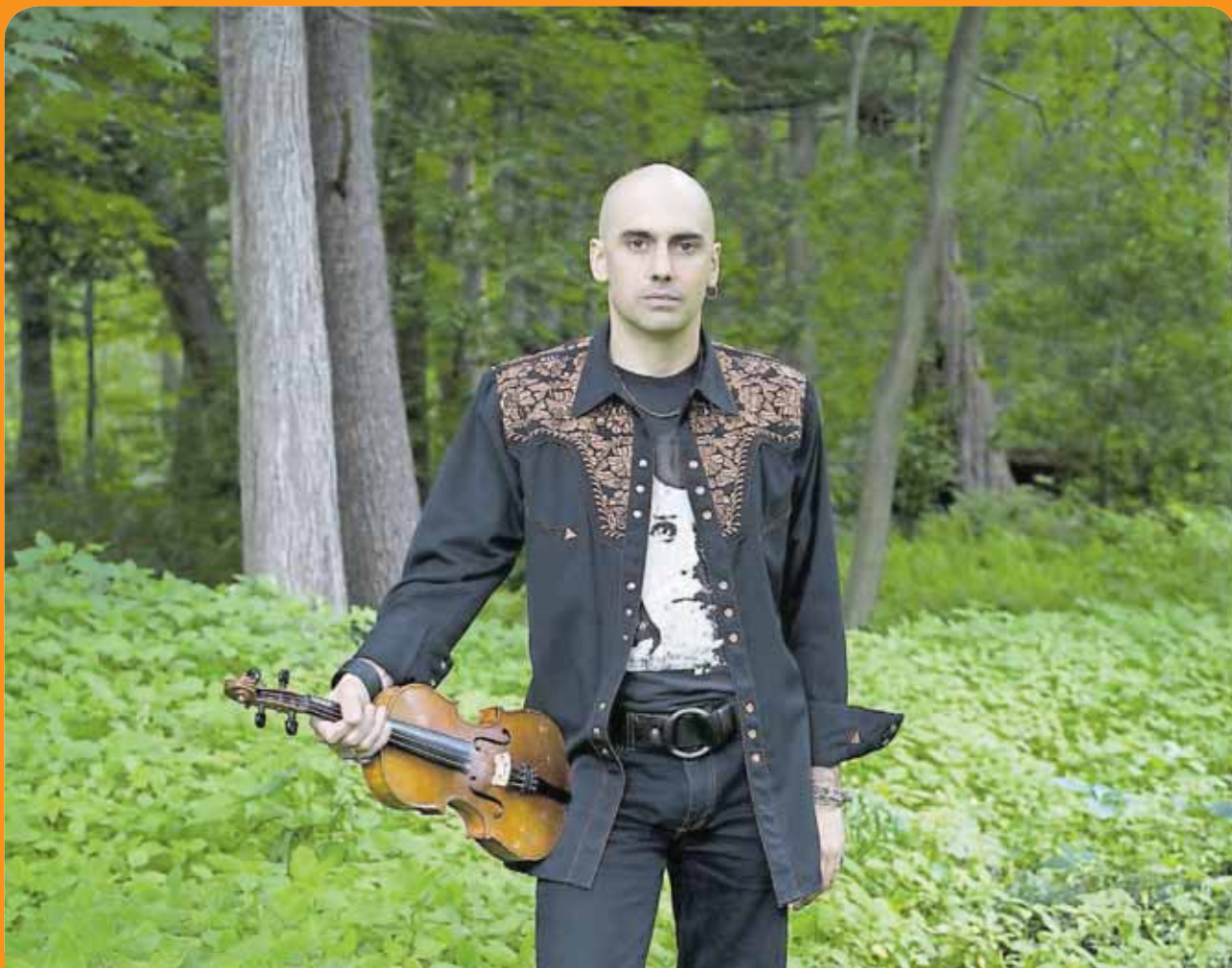
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AMERICANA: Tim Eriksen and his fiddle

Rockers set to blaze a trail in alternative gigs this summer

A trio of big-name bands will be performing in Canterbury this summer...

THE SOUNDS of skiffle, post-punk and Americana are coming to the Marlowe Studio, Canterbury, in three separate gigs.

First up are the Gutter Brothers, who formed in early 1985 as a latter-day skiffle band, when singer and washboard player Tony Green arrived in London from his native New Orleans. Joining Dennis Johnson on tea chest bass, they impressed crowds with their busking performances in Covent Garden under the name Slap And Tickle. During the following two years they added guitarists Chris Cawte and Steve Turner and drummer Jeff Walker. As a proper full-on rock band they featured in a number of TV programmes whilst writing soundtracks for others.

According to a spokesman: "The band split in 1993, but following

Mr Johnson's death in 2002 they decided to reform for a few "one-off" dates. The response was so great that a national tour has been undertaken most years since.

"In 2007 The Gutter Brothers released *El Krusho*, featuring some of Johnson's previously unused lyrics, and in September 2014 they recorded a new album, *Mother Primeval*."

The Gutter Brothers gig is at the Marlowe Studio at 8pm on July 13. Support is from Tom Cawte.

The next band to perform will be From The Jam. A spokesman says: "The Jam had amazing chart success with 18 singles and seven albums to make the top 40 in the UK from their debut in 1977 to their break up in 1982. Their last five albums were all top 10 hits and their last eight singles made it into the top 10. Just Who Is the

O'Clock Hero? made the charts at number eight as an import and remains the best-selling import single of all time in the UK."

The band comprised singer, guitarist, and songwriter Paul Weller, drummer Rick Buckler and bass player Bruce Foxton. Foxton has joined forces with Russell Hastings and drummer Smiley, to tour as From The Jam. Hastings has worked with both Foxton and Buckler (in *The Gift*), and Weller.

Jam fans have openly accepted Hastings as the man that fills Weller's shoes admirably and respectfully!

Smiley is a sought-after drummer and over the last three decades has worked with Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, Robbie Williams, Squeeze, Lily Allen, Bad Company, Alexandra Burke and Billy Bragg among others.

Foxton, Hastings and Smiley are

touring as From The Jam performing acoustic renditions of The Jam's classic back catalogue.

From The Jam: That's Entertainment Acoustic is at The Marlowe Studio at 8pm on July 17.

Tim Eriksen is acclaimed for transforming American tradition with his startling interpretations of old ballads, love songs, shape-note gospel and dance tunes from New England and Southern Appalachia.

He combines hair-raising vocals with inventive accompaniment on banjo, fiddle, guitar and bajo sexto (a 12-string Mexican acoustic bass) creating a distinctive hardcore Americana sound.

Eriksen plays the Marlowe Studio at 8pm on July 30.

For tickets prices and to book (booking fee applies) for any of the gigs, call 01227 787787 or go to marlowetheatre.com.

» Email us details of your event to:
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Fish & Beer have landed in Broadstairs



At the newly opened Fish & Beer in Broadstairs, they have 8 craft beers that are exclusive to them and unavailable on the supermarket shelf.

There are 3 lagers ranging from their house pilsner which is brewed for them in Bavaria, Moritz, a premium lager from Barcelona, to the Kona Longboard which is directly Imported from Hawaii.

They also have a double I.P.A which they have exclusive rights to from Norway, and Lindermans cherry Kriek, a sweet beer made from cherries.

Paulaner wheat bier which to this day is still governed by the Reinheitsgebot (the German purity law) which states that only water, barley and hops can be used in the production of beer.

Also on the menu is Brugse zot brune, a brown beer direct from Belgium along with Troubadour Obscura, a very strong stout with coffee and chocolate notes. Along with the beers, there is a well-sourced, single estate wine selection. Or of course, a chilled G&T may be more your thing!

As their name suggests, Fish & Beer offer a small-plate range of seafood, from scallops and tiger prawns to oysters and mussels. They take pride in their seafood paella, freshly prepared and available daily which can be complemented by the beers.

Their seafood & beers are also available to take-away, so on a sunny day you can enjoy this on the beach, which is just a minute's walk.

Or enjoy the surroundings in the continental - styled bar, with comfy upholstered church pews, all adding

an industrial, chic look. The open kitchen allows you to see your food being prepared.

There will soon be a screen coming for well-minded sports enthusiasts to join them for live sport, from the Grand Prix, to Tennis and Golf.

Tim Lawrence, who runs the new venture, worked with Adrian, Fish & Beer's owner, for 3 years at The Royal Harbour Brasserie, using similar cooking styles.

Lana O'Neill has also previously worked for Adrian.

And together they have been given the opportunity to run Fish and Beer for Adrian! For more information, find them on Facebook & Twitter. Or better still, pop in to see them in Albion Street, Broadstairs!



Tim Lawrence outside the newly refurbished Fish & Beer in Albion Street

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First World War trench returns to the War and Peace Revival

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

VISITORS to The War and Peace Revival, in July, will have a second chance to see the very popular First World War trench system that made its debut at the show last year.

Commissioned by Rex Cadman, organiser of the War and Peace Revival, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War, the above ground trench system gives a small taste of life as a Tommy.

The Great War trench was commissioned from the professional historical set designer team at Ancient Wisdom (www.awhistory.co.uk) and is built with both the classic corrugated iron and wood construction and the earlier designs, which were supported with anything the Tommies could find.

Featuring the twists and turns of a trench, so familiar from photos and films, it also has an officers' dug out and a shell crater by the front entrance.

Visitors to the show can walk through this display on their way into the great war exhibition,



FAMILIAR: Many have seen representations of the trenches in films

which is near the victory marquee.

Mr Cadman said: "We received a tremendous response last year to this display so we're delighted to feature the trench again in 2015. This unique trench system educates the young and old alike, enabling visitors to experience just a small taste of what it was like in those trenches.

"War and Peace is not only a family day out but very much about ed-

ucation and remembrance."

The War and Peace Revival will be on from July 22 to 26, commemorating the 75th anniversaries of the Dunkirk Evacuation and the Battle of Britain, the 200th anniversary of Gurkha service to the Crown, the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and continuing to recognise the centenary of the Great War.

On July 25-26 watch the incred-

ible Great War Display Team dog-fight overhead in their fighter planes, then be transported back to 1940 as the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight displays overhead in their Spitfire, Hurricane and Dakota.

The War and Peace Revival will be held at Folkestone Racecourse. Visit www.thewarandpeacefestival.co.uk for more information and to buy tickets.

Horrible history is on stage

NEW Horrible Histories stage shows will be performed at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

Incredible Invaders and Groovy Greeks will be on stage from July 23 to 26. Call 01322220000 to book.



Iconic musical performed

SET in New York City, Fame The Musical will be performed at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, from August 26 to 29.

It follows the adventures of a diverse group of students at a school of the performing arts.

Call 01622 758611 for more information or to book tickets.

Band is added to line-up

SOUL and jazz influenced band Stone Foundation have been added to the line-up for this year's Dartford Festival.

They will take to the stage on July 19. For details, visit www.dartford.gov.uk/festival.



Jo Brand in Kent on tour

ESTABLISHED comic Jo Brand will be returning to her stand-up roots this winter and taking her new show - Jo Brand Work In Progress - on a tour.

Ms Brand will perform at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on November 6 at 8pm.

To book, call the box office on 01303 760750.

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Black comedy performed

BLACK comedy Beyond Cragorth Rock will be performed at the Marlowe Studio, Canterbury, on June 25 and 26 at 8pm.

Tickets are £12.
Call 01227 787787 to book.



Rhythm of dance returns

RENOWNED stage production Rhythm of the Dance will be at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on July 22 at 7.30pm.

The show celebrates the history of Irish dance and features a traditional Irish band and thirty dancers. To book, visit www.assembly-halltheatre.co.uk

Hit country band in town

COUNTRY band The Shires will be at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on October 8.

Their debut album Brave reached the top 10 of the UK album chart.

To book, call 08448713015.



Pasquale due in Margate

COMEDIAN Joe Pasquale will be at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on August 18.

Mr Pasquale has been performing stand-up tours for some 20 years.

The performance will be starting at 7.30pm.

For more details or to book, visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

Suspense in Christie's longest running show

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

PACKED full of suspense and intricacy, Agatha Christie's tale *The Mousetrap* will be performed in Gravesend.

The play is famous around the world for being the longest running show of its kind.

It made its West End debut back in 1952 - with original cast members including Richard Attenborough and Sheila Sim - and has been running continuously ever since. It began life as a short radio play broadcast on May 30 1947 called *Three Blind Mice* in honour of Queen Mary, the consort of King George V. The play had its origins in the real-life case of the death of a boy, Dennis O'Neill, who died while in the foster care of a Shropshire farmer and his wife in 1945.

The longevity of the show even surprised the writer herself. In her autobiography, she reports a conversation that she had with Peter Saunders: "Fourteen months I am going to give it", says Mr Saunders.



To which Ms Christie replies, "It won't run that long. Eight months perhaps. Yes, I think eight months."

The play marked its incredible 25,000th performance back in November 2012, and it will now be performed at the Woodville, Gravesend, from September 21 to 26.

The dark play opens with the murder of a woman, leaving the characters to try and discover who is responsible.

The intricate plot sees murder lurking around every corner, with the audience kept in suspense until the very end. The ending

remaining a surprise was very important to Dame Christie, and traditionally people who watch the play are asked not to reveal the identity of the murderer to anyone outside of the theatre so it doesn't spoil the conclusion for future audiences.

Performances will be taking place at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets for *The Mousetrap* are available to buy now and they range from £17 to £26.

For more information about the performance or to book tickets you can visit www.woodville.co.uk.



MYSTERY: Audiences are asked to keep the plot a secret



SUSPENSE: Ms Christie's writing is masterful

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Feeling the heat in Chef Wareing's engine room

Jeananne Craig enters the fiery chef's restaurant and tries her hand at making his trademark dish...

MARCUS Wareing's latest restaurant is in the middle of London's Theatreland, but his kitchen is a drama-free zone.

A former protégé of the famously fiery Gordon Ramsay, the top chef has exacting standards and hasn't been afraid to speak his mind in the past – leaving one MasterChef semi-finalist in tears, during a 2013 guest stint on the show.

But the spotless kitchen of Tredwell's, the West End restaurant owned by Wareing, is an oasis of calm, with chefs quietly preparing for the busy evening ahead.

Which all comes as a huge relief, because I'm about to cook for the Michelin-starred man himself.

Before I get my apron on, Wareing admits he has mellowed in recent years – something the father-of-three puts down to professional happiness, mastering the work-life balance, and replacing Michel Roux Jr as a permanent fixture on the MasterChef judging panel last year.

"The MasterChef directors direct you, all the film crew, all the sound men and all the contestants in a very different way to how chefs direct a kitchen," he notes.

"They do it in such a calm manner. I've used and absorbed some of their expertise and calm direction to be able to create my own way of approaching my team."

As for his earlier appearances on the contest, the Southport-born chef



FIERY: Marcus Wareing made a MasterChef contestant cry

smiles and confesses: "You're asked to come onto a show, you're dragged out of the kitchen and put in a taxi, you're still in service mode, you go into the studio and get a load of mediocre food put in front of you, you tell them what you think of it and you get in the car and go again. It happens so fast..."

He promises we'll have fun in the kitchen – or "engine room" – where we'll be preparing some dishes.

Mr Wareing patiently guides me through the prepping and cooking of the harissa-glazed aubergine starter, a popular choice at Tredwell's.

Thankfully, it's a really simple dish to make – slicing an aubergine, browning it on a hot plate, bunging it in the oven and then brushing on a glossy harissa and agave syrup mix.

When it comes to plating up, however, I'm on my own, with no idea how the dish is usually presented. My yoghurt has melted in no time (I laboured too long on that piping) and the aubergines look more slumped than stacked, but Wareing gamely tucks in as I look on, red-faced.

There's "too much heat", he says, because I've been too liberal with the harissa and red chilli, but overall, he seems happy enough with the taste.

As for my sloppy presentation, he assures me that's something I can brush up on. I don't think I'll be landing a job here any time soon but I'm delighted all the same when Wareing, no doubt keen to get me out the door before the Friday night rush begins, jokingly tells me: "You're through to the next round".

Musical cabaret night

A MUSICAL cabaret night featuring musical theatre singers from London and across the south east will be taking place at the Margate Winter Gardens.

Cabaret seating will be offered.

Defying Gravity takes place in Margate on July 25 at 7.30pm.

Tickets to the event are £15.

Visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk for more details.

Thriller is full of twists

PETER James' thriller Dead Simple will be performed at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury from July 6 to 11.

The hit production features an all-star cast including Jamie Lomas and Tina Hobley.

It tells the tale of Michael Harrison, who thinks he has it all, until a prank on his stag night goes horribly wrong.

For more information or to book, visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Carr comes to the Leas

COMEDIAN Jimmy Carr will be bringing his stand-up show to the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone.

Jimmy Carr: Funny Business will be on stage on August 8 at 8pm.

The comedy show is suitable for those aged 16 and over.

Tickets start at £28.90.

For more information or to book, visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Classic ballet in town

CLASSIC ballet The Nutcracker will be performed at the Central Theatre, Chatham, at 7.30pm on October 16.

The ballet is one of the most famous in the world.

It features familiar music including the Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy and The Waltz of the Flowers.

It tells the story of a nutcracker doll who is transformed into a prince.

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Soaking up the parklife in Croatia

TRAVEL REVIEW: Croatia

B

6

"I'VE BEEN coming here every day for more than seven years and I never get tired of the view," says my guide Ana.

The anticipation now building, I push my way through the hordes of tourists and make my way along the rickety wooden walkways which meander around the waterfalls at Plitvice Lakes National Park.

Ana is right - the view doesn't disappoint.

I can feel the brute strength of the current underneath my feet and the mist on my face as the water thunders away at my side. It's a scary feeling considering just a few planks of wood are protecting me from this tremendous force of nature.

Natural wonders such as the waterfalls at Plitvice are in abundance, once visitors head inland towards the heart of the country.

Croatia has become one of the most popular European destinations in recent years, thanks to a proliferation of two-hour flights from the UK, but the majority of tourists are party lovers and sun-seekers, heading to the many islands that string the coastline.

Yet there's plenty for nature lovers to discover once they head inland towards the heart of the country, where the glorious Plitvice and Paklenica parks are located.

The largest and oldest national park in Croatia, Plitvice, which received the honour of being added to the UNESCO list of World Natural Heritage sites in 1979, consists of 16 lakes and numerous cascading waterfalls.

Sitting down for lunch by the lake-side is a magical moment, it's probably one of the most scenic spots I've ever had a sandwich and chips!

Surrounded by forests of beech and



STRIKING: The scenery is breathtaking

fir trees, this park, accessed by paths and trails, as well as an electric boat across the biggest lake, Kozjak, is a natural treasure and home to more than 1,250 different species of plants, wolves, lynxes, wild boar and wild cats.

Ana tells me brown bears also live here, although luckily we didn't meet one.

About an hour's drive from Plitvice is Paklenica National Park.

With the Velika (Big) and Mala (Small) Paklenica gorges incised into the southern slopes of the Velebit mountains, Paklenica is more suited to active types.

Rock climbers of varying ages show off their strength as they take on the Anica Kuk wall, an almost vertical limestone rock face. I'm surprised to see that some even have young children with them on ropes. With over 400 marked climbing

routes of different levels and strengths, budding beginners to experienced scramblers will find it a worthy test.

For those who, like me, find climbing a challenge, other active options include hiking, trail running, rafting and canoeing on the Zrmanja river. Or, if sport really isn't your bag, there are photo safari tours, where 4WD vehicles transport budding photographers through the wild terrains.

TRAVEL FACTS

Shereen Low was a guest of the Croatian Tourism Board. She stayed at Hotel Korana Srakovcic in Karlovac (www.hotelkorana.hr), where a double room for two people, including breakfast, is priced at £90 per room per night. Plitvice Lakes National Park is open all year around. For more information about Croatia, visit croatia.hr/en-GB

This is my first visit to Croatia, and I've already fallen in love with the country, the friendly people, their customs and the culture.

"Everybody likes to tell you their story and ask you about yours," my driver Mario tells me.

True enough, every person I meet happily opens up about their life - even the Mayor of Ozalj who takes time out from her busy schedule to join me for a day.

No subject is off-limits, and they are even willing to speak about the impact of the war with Serbia.

It may be 20 years since the Croatian War of Independence ended in 1995, after four years of fighting, but the wounds are still visible.

Empty houses with bullet holes in walls and bombed roofs can still be found on the outskirts of Karlovac. Families have since moved into newer neighbouring buildings, but they don't intend to forget the past, Mario tells me.

"We never want to forget. The scars are still visible and we are proud of the wounds."

Not all views here are as inspiring as those encountered in the beautiful national parks, but they are all unforgettable.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



MR HOLMES
(PG, 104 mins) Drama/Romance

NO ONE is immune to the allure of that cruel and merciless mistress: time.

She saps strength and suppleness from athletic bodies, defies every cream to wither beauty and dulls the sharpest intellects.

Mr Holmes imagines the twilight years of one of literature's icons, who is facing the grim reality of dementia. As Sherlock's addled mind drifts between that ill-fated pre-war investigation and the present, the old man edges ever closer to an inglorious end.

The script slowly unravels the myth of the literary sleuth, including one bittersweet scene of the ageing Sherlock watching a film in which Basil Rathbone portrays him with unnatural gusto.

We'll meet Holmes again, in many different guises, but few will be as heartbreakingly frail or haunting as this.

ENTOURAGE
(15, 104 mins) Comedy/Drama/Romance

I'VE never watched Entourage, the long-running HBO comedy drama loosely based on Mark Wahlberg's

experiences as an actor in image-obsessed Hollywood. Having spent 104 tedious minutes in the company of this rapid big screen spin-off, written and directed by show creator Doug Ellin, I'm staggered the TV show survived for eight series.

A flimsy plot provides five central characters with myriad opportunities to bellyache about their fabulous millionaire's lifestyles in the American mecca of film-making, surrounded by gorgeous, scantily clad women and designer labels.

It's impossible to sympathise with these ingrates, who have their hearts' desires - including fairy-tale romances - but still want more.

Ellin's script venerates greed in each cameo-laden frame, asking us to root for the egotistical quintet as they cruise the streets in a Cadillac convertible, mithering about every little setback in their



enviable lives.

THE LONGEST RIDE
(12A, 128 mins) Romance/Drama

BASED on the book by Nicholas Sparks, the undisputed maestro of slushy romantic fiction, The Longest Ride is a leisurely trot across emotional terrain that will be achingly familiar to any tear-

stained fan of The Notebook or The Best Of Me.

Beautiful people fall giddily in love in lustrous close-up, fate throws them a curve ball, separation seems inevitable, but they decide to risk everything for that one precious shot at forever, usually with the spectre of death hovering ominously over at least one of the characters.

THERE'S no reason your garden has to end up looking like a sea of straggly, wilted plants while you're on holiday, even if you don't have neighbours or friends who'll water it while you are away.

The secret is to have water-saving plans in place, along with tactics leading to the least water loss possible.

Hanging baskets, among the thirstiest of customers, can be dunked in a bucket of water, or an old washing-up bowl filled with water, and given a complete soaking before you go. Then, if you have room, dig a shallow hole in a shady bed which will house the basket while you're away. Place a water globe, or a plastic bottle with the end cut off, spout-side down into the basket and fill it with water so that the plants receive a gradual top-up.

Place your patio pots together in a shady spot, to slow down evaporation, then give them a thorough soaking and place them on a large tray housing soaked capillary matting, which should feed the roots with enough moisture until your return. Cut a strip of matting, submerging one end in a nearby bucket of water, and the other running down to the matting in the tray, which should act as a conduit to keep it moist.

There are also many automatic irrigation systems available, varying in simplicity. Most work on a timer system attached to your outside tap, supplying water via drip feeders or soaker hoses to release water slowly to the areas it's needed in the beds and borders,



IRRIGATION: Some plants will require watering every day

Garden tips for your holidays

or to your patio plants. More sophisticated types have sensors which detect rain and adjust the watering requirements accordingly, while others start and stop the irrigation process according to moisture levels in the soil.

For those with plants such as tomatoes, there are troughs available on to which you can place a growbag. Underneath the trough is a reservoir

which will keep plants watered for up to 14 days through capillary watering spikes which pierce the growbag and supply the roots with the water they need.

Don't worry if your grass dries out. If you mow it before you go, leave the clippings on the lawn which will act as a mulch and conserve moisture. Otherwise, feel free to leave it long

and then you should be able to give it a good cut on your return, while the long grass will have protected the strong roots underneath. Grass invariably grows back healthily with the autumn rains.

If you have a vegetable garden, give it a thorough soaking so the water goes deep down into the ground to the roots, as late as you can before

you leave. If you have neighbours, get them to harvest any ripening produce (either for you or for themselves).

You may inevitably lose some plants while you're on holiday but with a little TLC and a good deadhead or trim on your return, they may bounce back to give you pleasure for the rest of the summer.

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Police speeding in a better way

I DON'T think there's anybody who would disagree that speeding is wrong and dangerous, the problem is when its control is handed over to zealots determined to take it to the nth degree and also use it for revenue generation [KoS, last week].

For example, the cameras put on new roads with no possible past record of accidents; motorists fined for going just a few mph over a speed limit and ridiculous limits still enforced at night with few cars, or people, around.

Or cameras enforcing a low limit with the 'bait' of a higher speed sign at the end of the road markings.

There's no doubt people driving at greatly excessive speed should be punished, but when control is given over to people with the sort of mentality who fine motorists for having their disabled badge upside down, are an inch over a parking line, or have to park temporarily in a restricted area for an emergency, that's when they lose the respect and compliance of the British public and negate the point of the whole exercise.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

Fight to 'save' libraries goes on

NO lady sings yet, the campaign to protect Kent's libraries and keep them public is not over.

Despite more than 60 per cent not agreeing with the trust proposal in its own consultation and a 4,000 signature petition calling for our libraries to remain public, Kent County Council did defy democracy by deciding it can still have confidence in the trust option.

But a legal hitch around the registration services, successfully incorporated into many of our libraries, means the process cannot yet begin. Our libraries remain public for now at least.

Much to the consternation of campaigners, who had approached the democratic process in good faith, the request for the future of our libraries to be debated in full council was rejected.

Indeed, KCC announced "the future of Kent's libraries is an executive decision and must therefore be taken by the cabinet or an individual cabinet member. In this instance the decision was taken by the cabinet. The full council has no role in this decision or other executive decisions and the

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Medical firms have got blood on hands

THE Archant media group should be justifiably proud of its campaigning on the lasting stain on this country's reputation that is the scandal of contaminated blood.

Whilst understanding the need for a newspaper title to attempt to give a wide as possible spectrum of views and experiences, we are forced to take issue with much of the interview given by blood salesman 'Keith' in your most recent article on this issue.

His blithe ignorance in asserting that all treatments are for life threatening conditions, reveals his ignorance of haemophilia care.

Whilst claiming ignorance of the risks attached to sourcing blood despite those being public knowledge since the 1950s, he and his colleagues were undoubtedly far more attentive to the bottom line and their profit margins.

To say that he and his colleagues were most affected by the contaminated blood scandal is

palpably and demonstratively untrue. Unless, of course, he would like to lose his home, 30 years of earning capacity and subsequent pension rights, the chance to have children and his future. Not to mention enjoy ill health with a death sentence hanging over his head.

His assertions about working in the 1990's are largely irrelevant to the issue as the damage had already been done prior to that period and all of the now 2,000 dead and the thousands of other haemophiliacs had already been infected with HIV, Hepatitis A-Z, CJD and other pathogens.

We commend reading a document published by campaign group Tainted Blood entitled Stories behind the Statistics: a reading of which will put into stark perspective the self-seeking, furtive, anonymous 'Keith' and his woeful self pity.

Steve and Su Dymond
Broadstairs

minutes of cabinet meetings or records of decisions taken by individual cabinet members are not considered by the full council".

As extraordinary as it is unacceptable.

KCC leader Paul Carter should acknowledge that this unrepresentative approach to decision-making has lost public support and failed to guarantee the best way forward for Kent's libraries.

As things stand, while the council seeks to sort out the legal wrangle it has said it wants to develop libraries by increasing pub-

lic engagement and seeking new partners where appropriate. These are welcome ideas but doomed to be made harder to achieve by the uncertainty caused by the threat of transfer to a trust.

Leaving the trust proposal on the table was as unwise as it was undemocratic.

It should be withdrawn until the legal situation is resolved – then we could all work with KCC to achieve the development of libraries it says it wants to see.

Richard Stainton,
Whitstable

How could they check for hep C?

WITH regard to your article on contaminated blood [KoS, last week], I just felt that I should say that my wife died four years ago from Hepatitis C, aged 48, having undergone numerous blood transfusions in the 1970s and 80s.

However, her attitude was that, as is mentioned in the article, how can they test for a condition the existence of which wasn't even known at the time? She was just grateful that they were able to prolong her life for as long as they did.

Mark Penfold,
Via email

The debate that will not die...

WHILST I'm glad Phil Granger accepts gay people [KoS, ad nauseum], I point out though that it rather contradicts his stance of the 'word in stone' inviolability of his Bible.

He implies that we should all just get along, but it has only been because people have actively challenged the 'authority' of the Bible in this case; that progress has been made.

Indeed were we all to have just agreed to differ, and kept quiet generally, we may still be living under the yoke of the Christianity's scientific and social 'dark ages' which lasted several hundred years or more.

As I've pointed out to him before, merely handwringing about the world's problems from leafy West Malling and then complaining about those who try to do something about them solves nothing.

I also again suggest even now, that he starts joining those of us actively campaigning against the very real social and economic injustices being perpetrated as well as the environmental damage being done around the world.

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

Steer clear of danger wreck

WITH reference to your article about the sunken SS Montgomery.

The fact that the weather was good and the sea 'like a mill pond' is no reason why one can go paddleboarding around the ship.

The area is buoyed – in other words, keep out!

Lesley Jameson,
Faversham

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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Kent on Sunday will:

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3) Be written in clear, concise English.

4) Not be overly sensational.

5) Have a sense of humour.

6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.

7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.

8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Westgate Gardens, Canterbury

by **Tom Stone,**
Birchington

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The Grand Burstin Hotel is set in a prime position overlooking Folkestone Harbour. It is renowned as one of the UK's top entertainment hotels, so you can relax, dine in style and be entertained all under one roof. Cabaret shows are performed every evening - fantastic entertainment for all ages! The Spindles Health Club has an indoor heated Swimming pool, sauna and a state of the art gym (£4 per session payable on site).

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en suite room • Breakfast and dinner each day • Entertainment every night • Free wifi



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Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue. This Christmas we're featuring music from the 60s and 70s including Edison Lighthouse (*Love Grows where my Rosemary goes*) plus tributes to Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones and lots of festive and nostalgic fun. There's also a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night • house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • Return car ferry



2-for-1 Drinks • Entertainment
Over 40s only • £10pp deposit

Carry on New Year Party at Bosworth Hall

29 January, 2016 • 2 nights half board-plus, **£119pp** • Quote: BW1-KOS

Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. We've arranged a super entertainment line-up for our Party Break, including tributes to Frankie Valli, The Eagles and Kenny & Dolly. You will also enjoy 2-for-1 drinks both nights.

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The Fourmost

Maxine Mazumder
as Dusty Springfield



Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Entertainment
Car Ferry included
Over 40s only

Back to the 60s Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from **£229pp** • Quote: BP1-2-KOS

Too busy to do the New Year in December? Join us for a private party at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight as we extend the New Year festivities into January and take you on a trip down memory lane back to the 1960s. Our exclusive weekend, designed specially for the over 40s generation, includes a gala New Year's Eve party, complete with Big Ben countdown to midnight and a Best of British sing-a-long with all the old favourites including Land of Hope and Glory and Auld Lang Syne. PLUS there are Free Drinks every night from 6pm-midnight to help the party go with a swing. The entertainment line-up features authentic 60s Bands The Fourmost and Union Gap, plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield with Maxine Mazumder.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night • beers • house lager, bitter and cider; branded spirits including Smirnoff, Bacardi, Bells, Gordon's Gin, Courvoisier, Lamb's Navy Rum, Martini & Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry; wine by the glass; draught soft drinks and cordials • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • 1960s themed live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

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Original 70s band Brotherhood of Man

Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Entertainment
Over 40s only

Christmas Cracker Party through the Decades

20 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£129pp** • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy live music from original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney - Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night • house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available • Towels & linen



The Merseybeats

The Ivy League

Free Drinks • Entertainment
Over 40s only • £10pp deposit

We Love the 60s Spring Party Weekend

11 March, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£129pp** • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night • house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available



The Fourmost

Maxine Mazumder
as Dusty Springfield



Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Entertainment
Car Ferry included
Over 40s only



Dance champions
Richard & Morgan

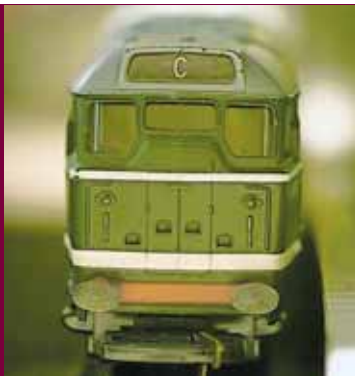
Optional Come Dancing Party Package

Just **£50pp** extra • Quote: BP1-3-KOS

Fans of Strictly Come Dancing and dance enthusiasts can add dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more to this special weekend at Bembridge. Richard Still and Morgan Hemphill, 6 Times UK Ten Dance Champions, will demonstrate for us on the Friday and Saturday evenings and provide a mini Latin workshop on Saturday afternoon. There are reserved tables and seating exclusively for a maximum of 200 dance guests. Tuition - up to 8 hours - is by Philip Wylie of Ballroom & Latin Dance specialists **Holiday & Dance**.

SEE PAGE 59

Full speed ahead for Hornby to raise £15m through fresh share issue



SEE PAGE 57

Duo eye top prize in face-to-face meeting with Sir Richard Branson



BusinessQuarter

Manston: A licence to print cash?

Maria Chiorando reports on how a movie studio could form a key part of former airport's regeneration plans

OWNERS of the former Manston Airport site announced a major film studio could be built on the land.

Developers Chris Musgrave and Trevor Cartner, who also own Discovery Park in Sandwich, confirmed plans for a 50m swimming pool, and 2,500 homes on the 750-acre site, which they have re-named Stone Hill Park.

Mr Cartner said: "It's too early to give too much detail, but we have been approached by a consortium, talking about a major investment of about £125 million.

"There is a lot of film making being taken out of this country, so it would be beneficial to have another studio in the south east."

If plans went ahead, the new studio could rival the legendary Pinewood - production base of several James Bond films.

According to Mr Cartner, Pinewood is 'bursting at the seams' and there is a genuine need for

more production facilities in the UK.

He did not rule out the possibility of future Bond productions being filmed at the proposed facility, which would occupy around 200 acres on the land.

He added the consortium estimated the studio could provide up to 2,000 jobs, and said the flatness of the land on site, as well as transport links to London make the site an ideal venue for film production.

The site has been a contentious issue since former Manston owner Ann Gloag, the Stagecoach magnate, closed the airport last May, losing around 140 jobs. She sold a majority stake of 80 per cent to the developers in September, retaining 20 per cent.

Local politicians including Thanet North MP Roger Gale have opposed the plans, campaigning to see the airport run as a business again. The Ukip-run Thanet District Council has also stated it will consider buying the

Continues over page



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PARTNERS: Trevor Cartner and Chris Musgrave

Manston plans unveiled by property developers

Continues from previous page

site using a Compulsory Purchase Order. This is when an official body buys land without the consent of the owner, but it must be proved that it is the public interest to do so.

The Ukip-run Thanet District Council would have to stump up the costs of obtaining the land and also provide the long term finance to support the establishment of a viable airport.

“ This [the CPO] would cost at least £76 million, and without a suitable indemnity partner, Thanet District Council cannot take that risk. ”

Ray Mallon, spokesman for the developers Cartner and Musgrave

According to Ray Mallon, a spokesman for the developers: “This would cost at least £76 million, and without a suitable indemnity partner, the council cannot take that risk.”

Mr Musgrave described the campaigners as ‘a noisy minority’ and said: “The CPO issue has been an irritant that I can do without – that is the best way to describe it.

“It would be wrong of me not to have sought CPO advice. I took the best advice in the country. We’ve got a



PRODUCTION: An artistic impression of how the studio could look

full team on standby in order to deal with this, but none of that team think it will be advanced.

“It would be folly to think it would be advanced. It’s been running on, but we haven’t put our pens down, we haven’t stood our masterplan team down and said let’s deal with the CPO, we’ve dealt with it but we’ve also trundled on with the plans we’ve had.”

Those plans include developing 500 acres of the site, and leaving 200 acres as open park land - this would include a grass runway, which old planes including Spitfires could use several days each year. On site attractions the Spitfire and Hurricane

Museum and RAF museum have been gifted the freehold of the land they occupy, which Mr Musgrave described as ‘tipping his hat’ in respect of the site’s aviation heritage.

Part of the original runway will also be kept.

The pair have also outlined plans for an east Kent sports village, which would have a wave garden, which is a surf facility, as well as a sports arena and swimming pools.

Mr Mallon said the developers will be investing in other local projects.

This discussion will form part of the public consultations the team will be holding next month.

Printers clinch major recycling deals with giant Countrystyle

Lenham firm’s deals eases landfill pressure

COUNTRYSTYLE Recycling has secured major new contracts with three south east-based print companies to provide recycling services.

The Lenham-based firm, which specialises in resource management and recycling, says the deals are aimed at improving the sustainability of each company’s operations by diverting waste from landfill.

Deals were struck with Ashford-based Headley Brothers, Mastercolour in Tunbridge Wells and the Pureprint Group just over the East Sussex border in Uckfield.

All have contracted Countrystyle to recycle a variety of waste materials from their premises, including paper, cardboard, plastic and wood.

The three contracts are estimated to see over 8,000 tonnes of material diverted from landfill each year.

Countrystyle is providing dedicated recycling containers and equipment to the printers to make the process as efficient and simple as possible for the businesses.

The materials will be collected by

Countrystyle’s own fleet of vehicles and transported to its baling facility at Lenham.

One hundred per cent of the waste will be diverted from landfill and instead will be recycled or packaged for use as recovered paper.

Paul Pettitt is safety, health and environmental manager at the Pureprint Group. He said: “Although we are as resource-efficient as possible, we do generate paper waste, along with related materials such as cardboard and plastic, and it is important to us to know that these materials will be treated in the most environmentally friendly way possible.”

Countrystyle’s MD, Chris Howard, said, “These contract wins demonstrate Countrystyle’s continued ability to provide professional, reliable and cost effective solutions to local businesses and beyond.”

Countrystyle says it continues to expand its operations, both in and outside of Kent, providing integrated and innovative recycling and resource management solutions.”



READY: Oliver Du Toit and Jeff Paterson

Duo pitch Branson in £1m contest

TWO businessmen from Strood will go face-to-face with business tycoon Sir Richard Branson this Friday in a pitch which could net them a share of a £1million prize fund.

Oliver Du Toit and Jeff Paterson run Fouxre, an innovative business centred around currency exchange kiosks and have beaten over 2,500

firms to reach the final three in the ‘new things’ category.

And if they impress judges of Virgin Media Business’ Pitch to Rich scheme, which includes the charismatic Virgin boss, they could win prizes which include advertising campaigns, cash and mentoring from business bigwigs.

Engineering female opportunity

SOUTH East Water is highlighting the role of female engineers as part of National Women in Engineering Day which takes place on June 23.

The company has 15 women working in the engineering department in a range of roles, including civil, process and

environmental engineering.

Amy Temple, graduate process engineer at the firm, said: “I would encourage young women to seriously look into engineering as a career. There are so many different industries that engineers work in and a wide variety of roles.”



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Hornby's change of AIM as it seeks share sales

Firm delivers profits, but admits it needs cash to service bank debt

HORNBY burst back into profit with the unveiling of its latest financial figures but then confirmed it was seeking a share issue to secure a further £15million to help it service its debt.

Amid a flurry of announcements on Thursday, it revealed it would be switching from the main market to list on AIM (the Alternative Investment Market), subject to shareholder approval.

The 15.78m new ordinary share will be priced at 95p each.

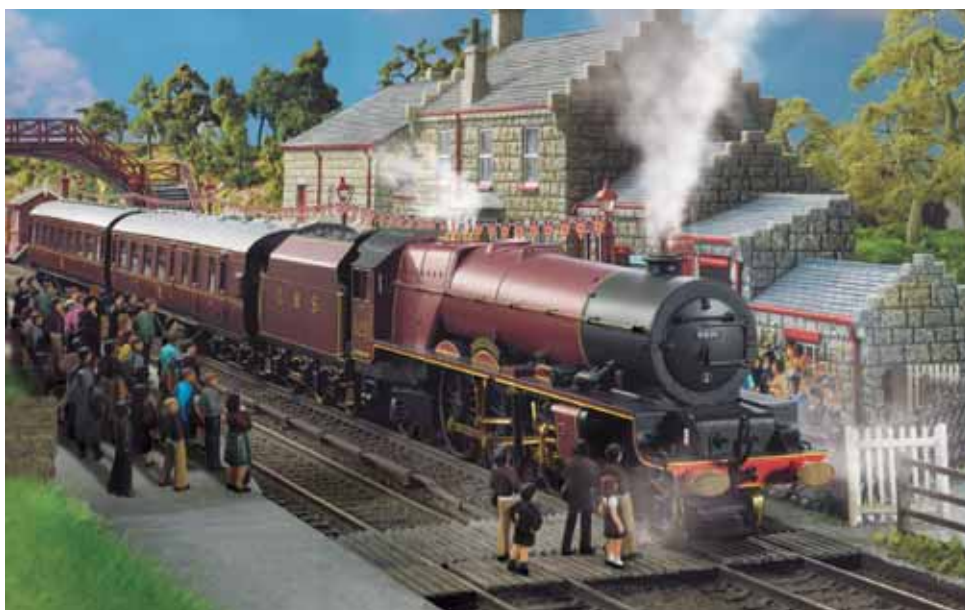
Hornby is best known for its long history of model trains. It also owns household brand names such as Scalextric – a huge hit in the 1980s – and model plane names Airfix and Humbrol.

Proceeds of the placing will repay part of its existing bank loan.

In a statement, the company, which has offices in Hersden and Margate, told investors: "The company has also reached an agreement with Barclays, the company's existing debt provider, to extend its revolving credit facility for four years but with a reduced revolving facility commitment of £10m.

"These arrangements have been negotiated with a view to materially deleveraging the company's balance sheet and, in conjunction with the placing, to provide the company with a strengthened and sustainable long term capital structure."

It followed news earlier in the day that it has exceeded its £1.5m profit target with underlying pre-tax profits of £1.6m. That includes a sharp 13 per cent rise in revenues to £58.1m



POPULAR: Hornby is looking to raise £15m to service debt and push ahead with its strategic plans

for the year ending March 31.

The additional revenues will also allow it to help invest in its future strategic plans. But it does also shed a light on the continuing struggles the company faces.

The statement added: "While the company would have sufficient working capital to trade, it could not do so in accordance with its existing business plan and as such the group's ability to implement its new strategic plan would be delayed or suspended.

"Furthermore, without the proceeds of the placing, the company does not currently have the ability to repay part of the existing bank debt which falls for renewal in December of this year.

"The board believes that, if it is required to renegotiate the terms of the existing bank debt or secure alternative bank finance later in the year when the existing bank debt comes to the end of its term, any such new arrangements may not be on as favour-

able terms as would be the case if the company had the benefit of the placing proceeds."

It warned that future planning could be derailed if not approved.

In late 2014, after revealing losses of more than £4m, it announced it was closing its Margate warehouse, which it first opened back in 1954, and moved operations to nearby Hersden. The warehouse was outsourced to a logistics company. Its popular visitor centre remains.

Votes pour in for organisations seeking to bag share of NatWest's £2.5m opportunities fund

FOUR local organisations have made the regional shortlist for a share of a £2.5million skills and opportunity community fund.

Organised by NatWest, the fund is dedicated to supporting projects in disadvantaged communities that help themselves by learning new skills, getting into the world of work or setting up their own business.

Launched in May, it attracted more than 1,000 applications within the first two weeks of going live.

Among the eight shortlisted in the south east are the Education Business Partnership in Sandwich, the Thanet

Community Development Trust in Ramsgate, JusB in Bromley and Bexley Menchap in Bexleyheath.

The public were then given five days to vote for their favourite project in each of region. The results of the public vote will count as one vote alongside those from a panel of judges in each region.

Voting ran until noon on Friday.

The winner will then be announced and receive the funding in July.

Thom Kenrick, head of community programmes at RBS Sustainability said: "We expected the response to be

good but have been bowled over by the volume of applications. Pulling together a shortlist from so many fantastic projects was a real challenge. We expect people had a hard time selecting their regional favourites from such a strong line-up."

Tim Boag, chairman of NatWest's south east regional board, which will be voting on the entries, said: "Opening the vote to the public gives organisations who've applied the opportunity to have mobilised support from their community."

A second round of funding will be open for applications in August.



PRIZE: Cash up for grabs

Cafe Rouge serves up refurbishment

A BISTRO in the centre of Canterbury opened its doors again on Friday after an extensive refurbishment.



Cafe Rouge in the Longmarket has been closed while the venue was redesigned.

It has now been transformed with its theme celebrating the city's twinned status with the French city of Reims - capital of the Champagne region.

Apprenticeship led to service award

AN engineer from Strood who works for UK Power Networks has been presented with a prestigious long service award, at the annual Utility Week Stars Awards.

Ray Morris, who works as a maintenance engineer across north Kent, started his career in 1965 as an apprentice electrician with one of UK Power Network's legacy companies.

Trust unveils major new warehouse

THE Bridge Trust officially unveils its relocated Furniture Warehouse next Saturday in Paddock Wood.



The store in Eldon Way, which sells second hand items to raise money for the homeless, will be officially opened by the mayors and mayoresses of Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling.

Rewarding those boosting retailers

TIME is running out to enter the Great British High Street Awards 2015.

The competition, now in its second year, celebrates the hard work of local groups up and down the country working together to support their local high streets.

There are seven categories, including best town centre, best village and best coastal community.

The deadline is July 17. See thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk.

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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CX-3: Mazda's new model is set to be a winner with buyers in either petrol or diesel form

Mazda perfects the SUV formula

FIRST DRIVE: Japanese marque has followed its bigger CX-5 with an even better smaller brother, set to shake up the small SUV sector...

THERE is more than a whiff of alchemy about creating a sales-winning car, but Mazda has found the right formula for the fast expanding small SUV sector.

The Japanese marque's new CX-3 (from £17,595) simply nails what most buyers should want: style – thanks to Mazda's swooping 'Kodo' house design – smart and airy interior, nimble handling and, above all, low running costs from lively front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive (AWD) powertrains.

It's a stunning combination for an all-new model in a sector brimming with competition and set to overflow with yet more rivals.

Generous specifications include many features others would charge extra for, such as steering wheel-mounted controls and electric/heated/folding door mirrors, and there's an intuitive seven-inch touchscreen and multimedia control system as standard.

But you'd already be loving the CX-3 as you walk towards it; it oozes style, with none of the pseudo off-roader bulk of rivals like the Vauxhall Mokka and Ford Ecosport, or 'Marmite motor' eccentricity of the Nissan Juke. Its closest rival on style is Renault's Captur.

And the CX-3 soon trounces that for interior class and driving appeal; it swoops along and corners with the fluidity of the car's lines, aided and



abetted here by sporty yet refined engines and slick six-speed manual gearboxes, though there is an auto option from £18,795.

With the CX-3 appealing primarily to private buyers, Mazda expects the 120 and 150PS (119 and 148bhp) 2.0-litre petrol models to dominate sales, but the 105PS (104bhp) 1.5 diesel is worth

the £1,400 premium for its smoothness, low down responsiveness and 70.6 (combined) mpg – I averaged into the 60s on my first drive.

Not that the petrol options are shabby; I enjoyed the well-planted 150PS AWD version (£22,495) and some drivers might prefer the petrol units' slightly lighter handling.

Fabia remembers its old strengths

FIRST DRIVE: Skoda's supermini retains practicality but gains more style for a slicker and more polished third generation appearance, writes **Steve Loader...**

SKODA'S third generation Fabia has gone back to its roots. After flirtation last time with a more upright MPV body, which probably helped cannibalize sales of the Czech marque's own Roomster MPV and didn't endow the Fabia vRS hot hatch with much kerb appeal, Skoda's supermini has morphed back to sensible proportions.

But the styling is crisper than the frumpy original; with customizing options including a different roof colour, the new Fabia has both the looks and style to attract customers who increasingly look beyond those tired old Soviet era Skoda jokes.

Indeed, with a 14.24 per cent rise in registrations and near three per cent UK market share last year, Skoda is now a major player in the mainstream car sector and clearly no joke.

And the new Fabia is further proof of how the brand has transformed its line-up with smart new or updated models, all wearing a new flashier corporate grille.

Again offered as a five-door hatchback (from £10,600) or load-lugging estate (from £12,460) – the Fabia claims class-leading



practicality with more cabin space. The hatchback has a best-in-class boot: 330 litres with seats up and 1,150 litres seats down, compared with 300 and 1,180 previously, though the latter figure this time could have been better if the seat backs folded fully flat.

Though bigger, the '3G' Fabia is

lighter, with a consequent nimbleness aided and abetted by a good direct feel to the steering, and yet the taut chassis set-up does not come at the expense of ride quality.

Skoda says crash safety has been enhanced too – it was off the pace before – while gadget connectivity levels are higher.



Meanwhile, running costs are up to 17 per cent lower, with insurance groups slashed too, though prices are slightly steeper this time; with Skoda regularly topping customer satisfaction polls, the Czech brand no longer has to sell on value alone.

Engine choice matters though: the current powertrain line-up opens

Skoda Fabia 1.2 SE L DSG

Price:	from £15,890
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Fiesta

with two three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol options (59 and 74bhp) from Skoda's Citigo, but while they move that city car along nicely, the figures don't make a strong case for the bigger Fabia.

Never a fan of diesels in superminis, due to higher upfront costs and the extra engine weight impairing handling, I would also ignore the rather noisy three-pot 1.4-litre diesels (89 and 104bhp) unless you expect to notch up a galactic mileage.

Which leaves our preferred choice: two lively yet refined turbocharged four-cylinder 1.2-litre petrol versions offering 89 or 109bhp). We tested the latter with the £1,000 auto/manual DSG gearbox; the 'box is smooth but, unless you really need automatic and the luxury of its clean manual selection on occasion, then save money – buy the six-speed manual.

Great Motability offers from Peugeot

3008 ACTIVE 1.6 HDi 115 5 door
£199 ADVANCE PAYMENT*

- 17" alloy wheels • Rear parking aid
- Automatic headlights and front wipers
- Cruise control with speed limiter



2008 ACTIVE 1.4 HDi 70
NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT*

- DAB digital radio • Bluetooth connectivity
- Front fog lights • 16" Hydre alloy wheels



PEUGEOT 3008 ACTIVE / 2008 ACTIVE

The Peugeot 2008 Active is now available through Motability with nil advance payment*. Or choose the Peugeot 3008 Active, for an advance payment of just £199*. You'll even get insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and maintenance included for 3 years. Contact us today to find out more.

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Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the 3008 Range are: Urban 31 – 62.7 (9.1 – 4.5), Extra Urban 53.2 – 74.3 (5.3 – 3.8), Combined 42.1 – 68.9 (6.7 – 4.1) and CO₂ 154 – 110 (g/km). 2008 range are: Urban 32.1 – 68.9 (8.8 – 4.1), Extra Urban 54.3 – 85.6 (5.2 – 3.3), Combined 43.5 – 78.5 (6.5 – 3.6) and CO₂ 150 – 95 (g/km).
MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. *Models shown in order are 3008 Active 1.6 HDi 115 5 Door with £199 advance payment and 2008 Active 1.4 HDi 70 with nil advance payment. Subject to availability and on selected 3008 and 2008 models only. Offers available on cars ordered between 1st April 2015 and 30th June 2015. Information and offers correct at time of going to press. For full terms and conditions, please contact the Peugeot Motability line on 0845 945 5466. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.



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Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people



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OFFICIAL FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR JEEP RENEGADE RANGE MPG (L/100KM): EXTRA URBAN 48.7 (5.8) – 70.6 (4.0), URBAN 32.1 (8.8) – 51.4 (5.5), COMBINED 40.9 (6.9) – 61.4 (4.6), CO₂ EMISSIONS: 160 – 120 G/KM. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption. *Advance Payment of £395 applicable to Jeep Renegade 1.6 eTorque Longitude 4x2 Manual. Vehicle shown is Jeep Renegade 1.4 MultiAir Limited 4x2 Manual with Advance Payment of £995 with optional Bi-Colour Omaha Orange paint at additional cost. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed between 1st April and 30th June 2015. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Jeep® is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

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Motability

By Steve Loader

Motability mobilises the disabled

MOTABILITY has radically changed the way disabled people and their families live their lives.

The Government-backed scheme enables them to get on the road for much less than it would cost them to buy or lease a new or nearly new car privately, and helps them with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

On top of that, the scheme's regular payments can take care of everyday running costs, from insurance, maintenance and repairs, to breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when the cost of motoring is soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist that the disabled

person is the driver; the car is made available for the benefit of that person, which means that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see inside this special supplement.



CHOICE: Motability buyers have the same range of options as any able-bodied person, from the practicality of the Skoda Yeti SUV/crossover to the super-mini chic of the Renault Clio



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 **Motability**
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Fuel consumption and CO2 figures for the Volvo range. Fuel consumption in mpg (L/100km) Urban 15.7 - 61.4 (18.0 - 4.6), Extra Urban 31.7 - 85.6 (8.9 - 3.3), Combined 23.3 (12.1) - 74.3 (12.1 - 3.8), CO2 emissions 268 - 99g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licensed credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status, E&OE. Offer is for stock vehicles only. 12509

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Kent DA2 6HH
0843 658 2618
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Motorline ŠKODA Medway
26 Hoath Lane, Wigmore
Gillingham, Kent ME8 0SW
0843 658 9764
www.motorline.co.uk/skoda

*To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance, War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). Nil advance payment applies to Fabia S and SE models (except SE 1.6 TDI 105 at £45), Yeti S and Outdoor S 1.2 TSI 105, and Octavia S 1.2 TSI 105 only. Fabia Hatch shown is S MPI 60PS 1.0 with optional metallic paint (£525). Octavia Hatch shown is Elegance 1.6 TDI 105PS manual (from £1,095 advance payment) with optional metallic paint (£525), bi-xenon lighting package (£1,190) and 18" Golus alloy wheels (£350). Yeti shown is Outdoor Elegance 1.2 TSI 105PS manual (from £795 advance payment) with optional metallic paint (£525) and part-silver roof rails (£160). Cars shown may vary from UK specification. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are not available in conjunction with any other offer. Retail sales only. Participating retailers only. Subject to availability. Valid for applications to Motability from 1 April 2015 to 30 July 2015.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 21.7 (13.0) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 40.4 (7.0) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 30.4 (9.3) to 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range 217 to 85g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

How Motability crushed the Invacar

ACCESS to car-borne independence for the disabled was once limited strictly to those who could drive themselves.

And this was usually in the form of a notoriously unstable three-wheeler with room for the driver only – not much use for families – and a tendency to topple on corners or in high winds.

This changed in 1978 with the launch of the Government-backed Motability charity, which calculated an allowance that disabled people could use towards a vehicle of their choice.

It removed the stigma of the blue 'Invacar' – finally outlawed from UK roads in 2003 – and opened up transport to disabled people who couldn't drive themselves.

Since then, more than three million cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs have been sourced through Motability, allowing disabled

people to go shopping, do voluntary work, visit friends, go to the doctor, do sport, give a family member a lift, or go on holiday – all things the motoring majority takes for granted.

Some users have even been able to take up further education or pursue better jobs and careers, having been liberated by their new mobility.

The scheme was modified recently though, to streamline procedures and prevent misuse creeping into the system.

The key changes were:

- Streamlining the list of cars available
- Nominated drivers must live at or within five miles of the applicant's address, though special circumstances are considered
- Drivers under 25 are restricted to cars with an insurance group of 16 or lower and with a power output of 115bhp or less
- Drivers under 21 are only permitted to drive Motability vehicles in cases where they live with the disabled customer.



MOTABILITY APPLIES LOGIC: Invacar users would have been amazed to be offered cars like the capacious yet compact Fiat 500L, upmarket Volvo XC60 SUV or funky Renault Captur crossover



Great Motability offers from Peugeot

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- 17" alloy wheels • Rear parking aid
- Automatic headlights and front wipers
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2008 ACTIVE 1.4 HDi 70
NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT*

- DAB digital radio • Bluetooth connectivity
- Front fog lights • 16" Hydrex alloy wheels



PEUGEOT 3008 ACTIVE / 2008 ACTIVE

The Peugeot 2008 Active is now available through Motability with nil advance payment*. Or choose the Peugeot 3008 Active, for an advance payment of just £199*. You'll even get insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and maintenance included for 3 years. Contact us today to find out more.

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Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the 3008 Range are: Urban 31 – 62.7 (9.1 – 4.5), Extra Urban 53.2 – 74.3 (5.3 – 3.8), Combined 42.1 – 68.9 (6.7 – 4.1) and CO₂ 154 – 110 (g/km). 2008 range are: Urban 32.1 – 68.9 (8.8 – 4.1), Extra Urban 54.3 – 85.6 (5.2 – 3.3), Combined 43.5 – 78.5 (6.5 – 3.6) and CO₂ 150 – 95 (g/km).
MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. *Models shown in order are 3008 Active 1.6 HDi 115 5 Door with £199 advance payment and 2008 Active 1.4 HDi 70 with nil advance payment. Subject to availability and on selected 3008 and 2008 models only. Offers available on cars ordered between 1st April 2015 and 30th June 2015. Information and offers correct at time of going to press. For full terms and conditions, please contact the Peugeot Motability line on 0845 945 5466. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

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you, talk to our
specialist today.



Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Motability – the key points

MOTABILITY MOBILITY STARS: the capacious Skoda Roomster MPV and classy Volvo V40 hatchback

UP to two nominated drivers can drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them. The drivers may be friends or relatives, while parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three years or older.

The car only has to be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such as a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car. A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- A choice of around 2,000 car models

- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000 mileage allowance over 3 years.

Car dimensions vary; seat height, door opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure the car and Motability is right for you.

Many special adaptations are available free to help with speed and steering, signalling and safety, stowage, and seating and access. The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car. Around 600,000 customers currently choose Motability and 97 per cent say they would recommend the scheme to their friends.



PASSION FOR LIFE



TWINGO PLAY SCe 70

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- Touchscreen navigation
- 16" alloy wheels

Nil Advance Payment*



RENAULT CAPTUR DYNAMIQUE NAV TCe 90

- Touchscreen navigation
- Handsfree keycard

Nil Advance Payment*

MOTABILITY OFFERS ARE AVAILABLE ACROSS THE RENAULT RANGE, INCLUDING TWINGO, CLIO, CAPTUR, MEGANE AND SCENIC. WE HAVE VEHICLES TO SUIT ALL YOUR NEEDS. ASK YOUR DEALER FOR DETAILS.

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 44.8 (6.3)–70.6 (4); extra-urban 61.4 (4.6)–88.3 (3.2); combined 54.3 (5.2)–83.1 (3.4). The official CO₂ emissions are 115–90g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

*Advance payment offers are only valid for Motability applications to 30 June 2015 and are correct at time of going to press. ** Excludes i.d. paint for Renault Clio and Renault Scenic is a trademark of Motability. Registered charity number 299745.

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Motability choice – top tips

Small cars

Tend to have lower advance payments, running costs and CO2 emissions than larger vehicles. Two or three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles, which makes access easier, but closing the door and fitting in narrow parking spaces may be harder. Four or five-door cars benefit from superior back seat access, useful if you often have more than one passenger.

Medium cars

Are often sold as hatchbacks and will have a slightly bigger boot than a standard small car. The same doors argument applies as for small cars.

Estate cars

Usually longer than a standard saloon or hatchback, with useful space for mobility aids in the boot, but this can add to the car's bulk so make sure you check it out with a test drive before committing.

Family cars

Family cars are large four-door saloons or five-door hatchbacks and are considerably larger than medium sized cars.

Hatchbacks usually have more boot capacity.



Multi-purpose vehicles (MPV)

Ranging from small to large, MPVs can seat up to nine people. The seats are higher, with more headroom, legroom and width. Some have large sliding side doors, which obviously improve access for those with disabilities.

4x4 and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV)

The term '4x4' is usually used to describe vehicles designed for off-road use, which generally have higher ground clearance. Until recently, all 4x4s had 4-wheel drive, but many people now buy for the SUV styling and opt for a front-wheel drive only version to save fuel.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs)

WAVs are cars converted to carry passengers travelling in their wheelchair or those who wish to drive from a wheelchair. WAVs may be best if you have trouble getting in and out of the car from your wheelchair and would prefer to remain in it when travelling as a passenger. WAVs come in different sizes and have many standard features. The Motability website has a specific WAV Search.



Coupes, roadsters and cabriolets

Coupes are small and sporty-looking, seating either two or four people, but may be compromised for disabled users due to their two-door format, low down and cramped seating and smaller boots.

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Fiat with



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For further information or for a complete list of Fiat cars offered on the Motability Scheme, please call Northgate Canterbury on 01227 828200.



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TEL: 01227 828200 WWW.NORTHGATE-GROUP.CO.UK

Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 30.4 (9.3) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 40.4 (7.0) – 70.6 (4.0). CO₂ emissions 163 – 105 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *Vehicles shown are Fiat 500L Pop Star 1.3 MultiJet Dualogic 85hp with NIL Advance Payment, plus Fiat 500L Trekking 1.3 MultiJet 85hp with NIL Advance Payment and Fiat 500L MPW Lounge 1.3 MultiJet 85hp with Advance Payment of only £195, both featured with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost. †The Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. *Based on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.65m. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed between 1st April – 30th June 2015. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time.



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GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

BLONDE female, 5ft 11ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

FEMALE 38, attractive, African, single mum, seeks male, 35-50 for nights out, socialising, friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412793

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLM honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLM kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thantet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right places, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

BRIAN 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697

ANDY 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417821

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLM genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513

JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLM sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545

DEE lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961

JACKIE extremely sensual lady but for your eyes-only! likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414721

TERI separated single lady, blonde, blue eyes, slim, WLM compatible male for genuine friendship, meals out, weekends away, nights out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414361

DONNA 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187

ALISON 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going widower, 71 WLM Lady 60s early 70s, for easy going friendship OHAC. Text only to Mailbox No: 4641218

DOVER male 54 seeks female for friendship, conversation and maybe more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4682630

STU 52, looking for a sincere woman to share the long winter nights with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4609904

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motorcycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

GRAHAM tall, semi retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463

MALE, attractive, kind, loyal, gentle, no ties, looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4711124

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

JACK 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

CARING man enjoys going out, looking for someone to take out and have a laugh and to share some nights in! Text only to Mailbox No: 4736191

ED, retired Essex guy, astute & wise. N/S, no ties, with looks & humour seeks younger female needing life's mentor/tutor. Text only to Mailbox No: 4485189

GENUINE fun sexy healthy guy 55, with no ties, looking to date attractive lady 45/57 for fun times and more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4717147

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

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GRAHAM tall, semi retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, seeks likeminded female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motorcycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

JON seeking female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416771

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Swale Academies Trust



Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Teaching Assistants

Required for September 2015

Salary £13,647 - £16,633 (pro rata)
(equal to £8,237 to £10,039 pa depending on experience)
27.08 hours per week, worked over 5 days, term time only

Post 1: A post has become available to support pupils, who have a range of learning needs, both in our intervention unit and in mainstream classes. Experience in early-years reading skills, literacy and phonics would be an advantage.
Post 2: To support pupils who have various difficulties in mainstream classes, a particular interest in the areas of mathematics, science or humanities would be an advantage.

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis. Candidates would be expected to have good literacy and numeracy skills, and, as part of the interview, may be asked to demonstrate their skills in supporting pupils.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Applicants should include a letter of application detailing how they meet the requirements of the person specification.

Closing date: Wednesday 1 July 2015 at noon.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Chef

38 hours per week

£8.50/hour plus enhanced rates

for weekend working.

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covering early and late shifts.

Duties include, responsible for preparation and service of meals in accordance with weekly menu cycles, checking and preparation of equipment, maintaining a food safe environment with high standards of health & safety and hygiene at all times, ensuring compliance with current legislation. The ability to work as part of a team, flexibility and reliability are essential.

This position is subject to satisfactory references and enhanced DBS check.

To apply, download an application form from
<http://www.chaucercollege.co.uk/recruitment.html>

Closing Date – 26th June 2015



Chaucer College Canterbury

Chaucer College Canterbury

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This Japanese College on University Road, Canterbury is looking for host families, 1 or 2 students for regular two week periods. Must be located either in Canterbury or surrounding areas.

Interested families should contact the college for an informal discussion on 01227 787800, or email

d.conroy@chaucercollege.co.uk

or alternatively visit our website

www.chaucercollege.co.uk/recruitment.html

Career opportunities at MidKent College

Head of Maths

Job Reference : GBENGMAT

Closing Date : 01/07/2015

Location : Medway & Maidstone

Remuneration : £40,503

MidKent College is putting maths and English at the heart of our College. We are expanding the maths and English teams to inspire our post-16 students to be successful at all levels and are establishing specialist maths and English centres, where the focus is on excellence.

We are looking for a dynamic leader to provide inspiration and direction for our maths team. If you are an outstanding teacher with demonstrable leadership skills, looking for a move into management or an established first line manager looking for a new challenge, come and join us.

The role offers a great opportunity to lead a team in a period of innovation. If you would like an informal conversation about the role please contact **Lindsey Morgan, Assistant Principal** on 01634 383119 or contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Business Office Administrator - Dover

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 03/07/2015

Salary: £16,487.75 per annum

Experience and Qualifications

- Maths and English GCSE A*-C or equivalent
- 2 years' experience working within an Administrative environment
- Excellent Customer Service skills
- Experience in the health sector desirable

Interviews for this role will be held on July 15th

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Danielle Edwards, Business Office Supervisor, on 01304 2459556

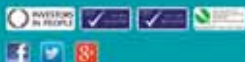
For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245943

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for New Premises Licence

We Allbars Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council c/o The Licensing Partnership Sevenoaks, The Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG for the grant of a new premises licence to permit:

1. The sale of alcohol,
2. Provision of Regulated Entertainment and
3. Provision of Late Night Refreshment

In respect of premises located at Yalding Organic Gardens, Benover Road, Yalding Kent ME18 1EX to be known as the Gardens.

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. – Monday to Friday (except public holidays) or www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Any representations against this application must be made in writing and received by the Licensing Service at the above address, by no later than 7th July 2015.

Any person may make representations on licensing objectives grounds only i.e. the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm. Copies of all representations will be sent to the applicant. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW,

8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP

Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicant

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15



Each year the council's accounts are audited. Anyone who is interested has the opportunity to inspect them and make copies of the accounts and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related to them. For the year ending 31st March 2015 these documents will be available to view at the council offices at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford between 9am and 4.30pm, weekdays, from 6th July 2015 to 31st July 2015. However, you must make an appointment with the Head of Finance on 01233 330540. Those registered to vote in the Ashford borough, and their representatives, also have:

- (1) the right to question the auditor about the accounts
- (2) The right to make objections about any items in the accounts (from Tuesday 3rd August 2015). Written notice of an objection must first be sent to the auditor. The audit is being carried out by Mrs Emily Hill, Engagement Lead (Director), Grant Thornton UK LLP, Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, London, NW1 2EP, and will be conducted under the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

The auditor can be contacted at the above address from Tuesday 3rd August 2015 until the audit is completed.

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that Shailesh Patel has applied to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the grant of a new premises licence for P and D News, 57 St. Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9TP, to allow the following licensable activity; The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption off the premises only during the following hours: Monday to Sunday, 06.00 hours to 21.00 hours.

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the 6th July 2015

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

<http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in an area of land, which for identification purposes is described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the area of land consists of or forms part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposal must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than Friday 26th June 2015.

SCHEDULE

Land at Bracken Close, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (approximately 0.078 hectares)

John Scarborough, Head of Legal Services

Dated 12 June 2015

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THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 7 MAY 2015 – INSPECTION OF ELECTIONS EXPENSES

NORTH AND SOUTH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

Arrangements have been made for any persons interested, to inspect the Expense Return Declarations from the candidates and the agents, who stood at the above Constituencies in respect of Parliamentary Elections, held on 7 May 2015.

The documents may be inspected at the Thanet District Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate from Monday 22 June 2015 onwards. If you wish to inspect these documents, please ring the Elections Office first on 01843 577500, so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Copies of the expenses may be purchased at a cost of 20p per sheet. If you require this service, please let us know in advance.

Madeline Homer
Acting Returning Officer

Dated the 18 June 2015

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Captain Northeast inspires T20 win



LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Kent's Sam Northeast has thrived under the captaincy

Cricket

By Tim Miles

tim.miles@archant.co.uk

KENT skipper Sam Northeast continued his rich vein of NatWest T20 Blast form by scoring a stunning 90 as Kent overcame neighbours Essex by six-wickets in Canterbury on Thursday night to move up to second spot in the south group.

Man-of-the match Northeast plundered 12 fours and a six to overtake Gloucestershire's Michael Klinger as the tournament's leading run-getter as Kent reached 174 for victory with five balls to spare.

Speaking after his side's fifth success in eight starts, Northeast said: "It was a very satisfying chase, especially after we fell just short against

Hampshire last week. To get back to winning ways was very important and no better place to do it than here.

"We play on some really good pitches here at Canterbury, we want to play an attacking style of cricket and these wickets are allowing our batters to do that. Daniel [Bell-Drummond] played a superb knock and got us off to a really good start, which we needed when chasing 170-odd."

Kent had set off in pursuit at an asking rate of 8.7 an over but, with only five on the board, Joe Denly (1) clipped a full ball from Reece Topley to Ryan ten Doeschate at mid-wicket to bring in-form Northeast to the middle.

The Kent skipper opened his account with a straight six off David Masters and Daniel Bell-Drummond doled out similar treatment against Graham Napier to raise Kent's 50 after five overs.

Skipper Sam smashes 90 and grabs man-of-the-match title as Spitfires shoot down Essex Eagles – Kent return to winning ways in the T20 Blast at Canterbury

Bell-Drummond reached his second T20 50 of the campaign from 33 balls with seven fours and a six as Kent reached 85 for one after 10 overs and the 100 in the 12th.

Northeast went past 50 for the fifth time in the competition from 33 balls, but the record second-wicket partnership in these matches worth 122, ended when Napier yorked Bell-Drummond for a completion-best 61.

Northeast clipped Shaun Tait for two boundaries to third man to move Kent ahead for the first time, only for Darren Stevens (11) to sky a top-edged paddle to long leg against Ravi Bopara's gentle medium-pace.

With 19 needed from 12 balls, Northeast plundered 18 off Tait's next five balls but, with the scores level, clipped the last ball of the penultimate over to mid-wicket.

As we went to press, Kent were due play Surrey in the T20 Blast at the Oval.

Shakey hopes for Snetterton success

CHAMP Shane 'Shakey' Byrne will have his work cut out if he is to return to winning ways at Snetterton on Sunday.

The MCE Insurance British Superbike Championship is back this weekend, with defending champion Shakey second in the championship – some eight points behind leader James Ellison, who has secured three of the six wins so far this season.

Also in the Sittingbourne rider's way will be Australian Josh Brookes, who is targeting his first win of the season after setting the fastest ever lap of the Norfolk circuit during recent testing.

Injury-hampered Byrne will want to come out fighting – the record-breaking champion hasn't scored a victory since the opening round in April and after a collision with Ry-



WANTING A WIN: Shane Byrne will be looking to win on Sunday

uichi Kiyonari last time out at Oulton Park, has his sights solely on victory to close the deficit to Ellison.

Kiyonari has had a torrid start to his season and has failed to score a podium finish, but has scored more victories at Snetterton than any of his rivals in previous years and knows he needs to return to the podium this weekend.

Stuart Easton and Tommy Bridewell both scored their first wins of 2015 at Oulton Park to move themselves into the top six in the standings ahead of this weekend and the pair will be pushing for more in their quest for all-important podium points ahead of the title-deciding Showdown later in the season.

The Snetterton event also features a special appearance by Grand Prix legend Giacomo Agostini.

The 15-times world champion is having a corner at the track named in his honour.

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Gills head to Devon in cup as fixtures are announced

GILLINGHAM at home for first game of season as details of league and cup fixtures are revealed.

And that's not all – the opening round of the Capital One Cup (League Cup) has also been announced too.

It means Gillingham boss Justin Edinburg now knows who his squad will be facing in their opening exchanges.

The Gills' League One season kicks off at Priestfield on Saturday, August 8, against Sheffield United.

A week later, August 15, they are away at Port Vale and then on Tuesday, August 18, they travel to Bradford City for a 7.45pm kick off.

In the Capital One Cup, Gillingham will be travelling to the West Country in the opening round to play Plymouth Argyle (with all the games taking place in the week commencing Monday, August 10).

The draw was made on Tuesday morning and sees Justin Edinburg's side facing a long trip to Devon just three days after their opening league game.



FIXTURES: Justin Edinburg's side face an early trip to Devon



BUILDING WORK: The Stones can no longer host the Gills

Maidstone United call off friendly with Gills

MAIDSTONE United's pre-season friendly against a Gillingham XI has been postponed.

The two clubs were due to meet on Monday, July 27, for the first time in 13 years but on-going building work, which has limited the venue's capacity and facilities, has prompted the postponement.

Club chief executive Bill Williams said: "We are very grateful to Gillingham for accepting our invitation and apologise to them and all those who were looking forward to the game."

"Despite it being a friendly, the authorities have subsequently advised us that segregation would be required and our designated area is where the main work is being carried out."

"This work has also temporarily reduced the capacity and we feel – given the interest on forums and social media – that we would not be able to accommodate all those who would want to come to the match."

"If Justin Edinburg and his staff are willing, we will look at hosting this match next summer."

James gains some consolation

WEALD Table Tennis Club's James Smith, 14, had mixed success whilst representing England in the Lithuanian Cadet (under 15) Open Championships played in Vilnius from 13-15 June.

Playing alongside Shayan Siraj (Yorkshire) James helped England to come second in their cadet boys' team event group.

In his cadet singles group, James lost to a Finn and a Ukrainian, but beat a Lithuanian, Klaidas Cepaitis, in straight games.

Unable to qualify for the main singles knockout, he played in the consolation singles, and here he had great success, winning all his games including beating Klaidas Cepaitis again, 11-6, 11-4, 12-10, in the final.

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